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Will spring "Pan" out?

*Yanko photographed on location
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what's where

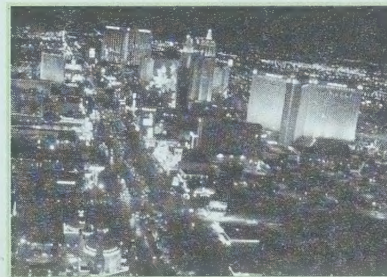


RIGHT HAND ANNE

She's been minister of both justice and health, now Anne McLellan finds herself deputy prime minister in a government under siege. In an exclusive interview, she tries to shed some light on the issues that have put the Liberals at odds with gay and straight voters alike.

MONSTROUS PROPOSITION?

If we are to believe both history and hysteria, some of literature's greatest names were known as much for their work as their reputations as pansexual players. Now, an award-winning new drama by Calgarian Louis Hobson sheds some light on a wild summer that sent chills through the ages.



LOST VEGAS?

Despite all the glitz and camp nonsense, "family" attractions in Nevada's most notorious town are still largely underground. Gerard MacMullin, "Indiana Jones-ing" for a bit of gay culture, found himself conducting a Strip search in Sin City...

BELLS ARE RINGING

Philadelphia, a city that knows the value of gay tourism, is also the site of the Equality Forum, which has chosen Canada as the honoree for the 204 edition of the conference.



Photo By: R. Kennedy for GPTMC

April 2004

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Anatomy of a party leader

By John Coulbourn

Once he'd wrapped his sweaty little meathooks around the brass ring that is the leadership of the newly minted Conservative Party of Canada, Stephen Harper wasted no time in attempting to broaden his base of support, holding out an olive branch to many of the diverse groups of people he's snubbed over the years.

Red Tors? Turns out that, suddenly, these socially progressive but fiscally conservative folks Harper used to revile in the days when he was advocating the building of a firewall around Alberta are now amongst Stevie Wonderful's new best friends—the salt of the earth, it would seem.

Ditto for those slackards in the Maritimes, the ones once reviled by Stephen Harpo for the bad attitudes that keep them perpetually mired in poverty and stuck over land that contains no oil.

Hell, he even likes the moderates in Ontario, it seems, which makes us wonder in retrospect just who that firewall Harper wanted to build was meant to keep out, if not the moderates from the silly centre of our nation.

Harpo even made nicey-nice with leadership rivals Tony Clement and Belinda Stronach, assuring them that his new party was big enough for all of them.

Mind you, if this new party has a kitchen, Stronach would be well advised to stay far clear of it, lest she find herself baking a bigger pie for all the hard working menfolk in the party and getting in-depth instruction from Elsie Wayne on the ins and outs of knitting ugly sweaters.

But I digress.

Now that King Stephen wears the crown and the Liberals are in sufficient disarray that there might actually be a chance—albeit a super slim one—that he might get to park his thickening hips on a throne of sorts in Ottawa, it turns out that this guy is just a hale fellow well met, a latter-day Will Rogers who never met a man he didn't like.

Well, almost.

Poring over the volumes that have been written about the recent canonization of St. Stephen, patron saint of the new world order, it seems that there's still one group that isn't welcome in the tent of the saviour of the right.

That would, of course, be you and me and our respective spouses.

Not that Stephen and his handlers (now there's a vision one doesn't want running around too long or too graphically in the brain) are posting signs around the perimeter of their brave new world reading: "No fags allowed." In fact, it's the one subject on which he's had nothing to say.

But then, considering what he's had to say on the subject of same-sex marriages, there's really not a lot to add.

In Harper's bizarre world, he's made it very clear that gays and lesbians like us are some sort of lesser beings who should never, ever be accorded the full rights of citizenship—and should any court ever try to grant us those full rights, he's promised to slap them with the "notwithstanding" clause so fast it's likely to make their gavel spin.

Instead, as some sort of consolation prize, he's prepared to allow us, grudgingly we are sure, to enter into some sort of 'civil union,' the nature of which is yet to be determined by the social consciences of such broad minds and deep thinkers as Grant Hill, the aforementioned Wayne and their cohorts.

As for those of us who have already married under the prevailing law of the land, well, Harper and his team of Neanderthals will just drop kick us back into the last century, when men were men, women were in the kitchen and all the fairies were at the top of the garden.

Problem is that there are already thousands of us who are married—and when it comes to drop-kicking, we've suited up, too. When we got married, Stevo, we anted up the bucks not for a commitment license, but for a marriage license. And, frankly, we aren't hankering for a change. Apparently in Steve's world, the words "What God has joined together, let no man burst asunder," mean nothing—unless, of course, it is his version of God.

But then, in his world, and in his new party, it seems it is possible to be both the brand new head and the same old ass. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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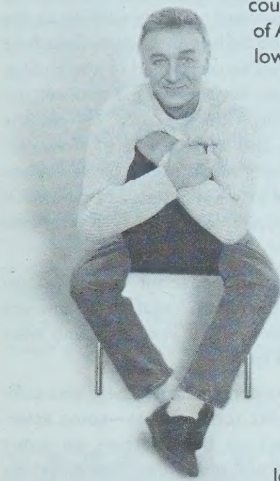
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Separate and unequal?

By Roy Heale



There are now three provinces in Canada where same-sex couples can legally marry. On March 19, the Québec Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal filed by religious groups on a lower court's decision to allow same-sex marriages in the province. This means that Canada's three most populous provinces—Ontario, British Columbia and Québec—will probably be performing hundreds, if not thousands, of gay weddings before the Supreme Court of Canada looks at the constitutionality of the issue in about six months time. With a federal election imminent and possibly a change of government before this fall, the Supreme Court ruling could make for a very interesting outcome. For the numerous same-sex couples already married, it will be a challenge if government acts against their unions—probably a fight for rights unequalled in Canadian political history.

Speaking of fights, who knows how to do that better than U.S. President George W. Bush? Canada has led the North American charge towards equality, and now south of the border the momentum is spreading like wildfire. It's hard to believe that in such a short period of time, states like Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Oregon and New Mexico (a list that grows almost weekly) and the city of San Francisco have followed our lead with municipal and state governments allowing same-sex marriages. Perhaps the most significant figure in all of this was Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco, who issued marriage licenses and performed gay weddings for thousands of couples before being stopped by the California Supreme Court.

Of course, President Bush is a key figure in this fight; after all, he thinks the war in Iraq is over, so he might as well begin another civil war in his own country and divide Americans even further. In a perhaps-not-surprising move, he declared his support for a constitutional amendment to uphold the institution of marriage as exclusive to one man and one woman. This will be the first time in American history that a constitutional amendment has been used to take equal rights away from Americans. Interestingly, Vice President Cheney has flip-flopped on the issue and now supports the president's actions, whereas before, as the father of a lesbian, he declared that marriage was a matter of state

jurisdiction. I'm sure this development must have led to some interesting family dinner table conversations in the Cheney household! Presidential candidate John Kerry is trying to avoid the "wedding war" and walk the Democratic middle ground by showing his support for same-sex civil unions. Suggest that one to Rosie O'Donnell and her new wife if you want to see a memorable fireworks display! Be sure to watch for some interesting coverage on CNN when the presidential election campaign heats up as this year progresses.

Meanwhile, here in Canada, our current Prime Minister, Paul Martin, won't be able to dodge the issue for much longer. With an election call certain in 2004, this will surely become a campaign issue. It's easy to figure out where the New Democrats and Conservatives stand on this issue, now the Liberals have to take a solid stand on one side or the other.

With judicial rulings throughout North America legalizing gay marriages, one has to wonder how President Bush and Prime Minister Paul Martin—or, perhaps, their replacements—can nullify the marriages of thousands of committed and loving same-sex couples. After all, once upon a time marriage was "until death us do part"—that was until government intervened upon this fine institution and created divorce laws to suit themselves. Watch out for a fun battle at the polls everywhere this year. Remember, your vote will truly count in this year's election, so be sure to get out and cast it. ▼

Publisher's note:

Congratulations are in order for our editorial columnist John Coulbourn and his partner Grant, who tied the knot at Old City Hall in Toronto on March 17. It was a surprise to us all, and they made some of us who live in other provinces green with envy on St. Patrick's Day! Then, only three days later, Outlooks contributor Pat Johnson wed his partner Paul at an intimate ceremony in Vancouver. We wish both couples all the best for a long and happy marriage.

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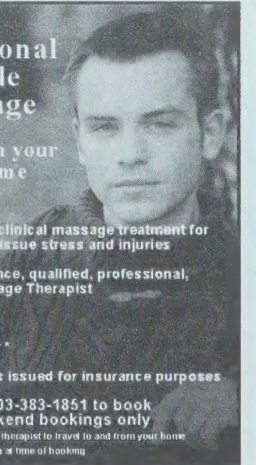
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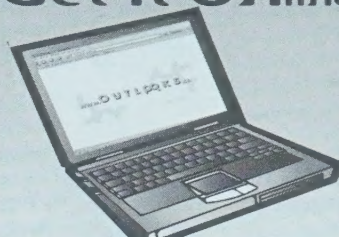
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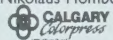


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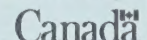


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OUTLOOKS April 2004 5

Defining Liberalism

By David Crosson

Ever since Paul Martin took over in mid-December of 2003, the Liberals have come under fire for what many perceived to be a reversal of fortune for some of the party's strongest supporters. First it was the PM's apparent eagerness to "cuddle up" to George W. Bush as soon as he took office. Next, the GLBT community viewed the additional question about same-sex marriage put before the Supreme Court of Canada as a betrayal by a party they *thought* would support this endeavour to its logical end. Add to that a change in cabinet positions that pulled many gay-friendly politicians out of the loop of influence and the suspicions about Paul Martin's "agenda" grew rapidly. Most recently, it was the sponsorship scandal that most strongly called into question the Liberal's integrity, a question asked by *all* Canadian taxpayers, gay and straight alike. Anne McLellan, a longstanding MP from Edmonton, has been one of our community's strongest supporters, and now finds herself in the role of deputy prime minister in the Martin government. *Outlooks* caught up with McLellan recently to ask questions on some of the issues that need to be addressed with an election looming. She was, as always, gracious, enthusiastic and tactful in her responses to queries that would have had lesser politicians quivering down the phone line...

Outlooks: Well, well—local girl makes good! Tell me, what did your appointment as deputy prime minister mean to you as both a woman in politics and a westerner?

McLellan: Well, I think it's significant in both respects. I was obviously pleased and honoured when the prime minister asked me to become deputy prime minister, in terms of the fact that I come from Alberta. It's important that the deputy prime minister is someone who represents this province and this region of the country. Prime Minister Paul Martin has talked a great deal about making sure that every part of Canada feels that the government of Canada is theirs. This government is about *all* the regions of the country; it's about, wherever you live, him wanting you to feel that this government is yours. And he spent a lot of time in our province and the west in general, talking to people who live here. He understands why people feel alienated and he understands the frustration of sometimes not having your voice heard. There are lots of different ways he sends signals that he wants things to be different. One of the ways he has done that already is by making me deputy prime minister—my colleague Ralph Goodale is Minister of Finance, my colleague Reg Alcock is President of the Treasury Board—these are



Deputy Prime Minister
Anne McLellan

all senior and important positions in government and they are all held by westerners.

Outlooks: As a Liberal, are you concerned at all by the momentum gained by other parties recently?

McLellan: It's no secret that we've gone through a rough few weeks in relation to the sponsorship program. Canadians have every right to be angry about that, they have every right to ask tough questions about what happened there and why. Again, our prime minister has said that we're going to get to the bottom of this—that's why we have a public inquiry, that's why the Public Accounts Committee is already at work. This prime minister is doing a lot of things to make sure we answer questions the auditor general couldn't answer—how did this happen and who was involved? Clearly, looking at the polls, we've taken a hit over these past few weeks, but I do believe that when Canadians have a chance to reflect on how we've responded to the auditor general's report, and when they see what the prime minister has done to get to the bottom of this, I think people will put the sponsorship program in context and move forward. They will look at what this government wants to do in the *future*. When people look at the record of this prime minister, and who he is and what he's done, I think, in fact, people will say "We want Paul Martin to lead this country."

Outlooks: There is some confusion about the additional question put to the supreme court with regard to same-sex marriage. Would you like to clarify why it was done and what impact, if any, it could have on the issue?

McLellan: Well, I think it was done because there was sufficient question around the area that some people—some attorneys general—felt that, if we didn't ask that question, we hadn't honestly put before the court *all* the questions. Therefore, my colleague, the minister of justice, felt that we should put that question before the Supreme Court of Canada. This is the highest court in the land and this is a very important issue, regardless of what your personal views are on it. Consequently, Irwin [Cotler] and the Government of Canada felt it was important to add the fourth question, so the highest court

in the land had everything before it and could speak to Canadians about what the court believes is *required* to ensure we are treating Canadians equally, whether they are in opposite-sex or same-sex relationships. It's about getting the relevant questions before the court so that, at the end of the day, people can either accept what the court says or not. But they can't say "Hey, if you'd only asked *this* question, maybe the result would have been different". *Everything* is before the court. Our goal is to ensure that there is equality for same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples in terms of their relationships.

Outlooks: Do you think Prime Minister Martin is attempting to move the Liberal Party a bit more to the right in order to appeal to the more progressive conservatives left out in the cold by the creation of the Conservative party?

McLellan: I know the prime minister quite well and he is a very progressive person. He's a lifelong Liberal who believes profoundly in the role of government in Canadians' lives and the fact that, while the government can't do *everything*, we have a pretty important and positive role to play in helping Canadians achieve their potential. It's easy to categorize people—we all do it. It's easy to generalize and say "This person is less liberal or more liberal than someone else". In fact, if you look at Paul Martin's track record, he is a liberal and he comes from that tradition. We are a party that stands for tolerance, we are a party that stands for equality of opportunity; we believe in the positive good that government can do. But, on the other hand, we also believe that government can't do everything. So... we're Liberals! We're pretty much moderate, tolerant people who want

to work with Canadians so that Canadians can achieve what they want for themselves and their families.

Outlooks: Do you think it's fair to deny retroactive spousal benefit claims on financial grounds when the sponsorship scandal, for example, involved hundreds of millions of dollars? I'm thinking of the Hislop case here.

McLellan: First of all, I just want to make sure you've got the facts right: the whole program, over four years, was 250 million—and the auditor general only identified some tens of millions she believes were either misspent or not properly dealt with or accounted for. Anyway, we're not appealing Hislop because it is a same-sex couple's case, but as I understand it—I'm not

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the justice minister here—we're appealing it because of a much broader principle. This sometimes happens. It's not the broader facts of Hyslop that we're appealing; what we are appealing there is what the court said, what the minister of justice and the Government of Canada believes, in other situations, might restrict our ability to define benefit programs and the recipients of those programs, or the terms on which those programs may be created by us. It has nothing to do with the fact that the actual applicants in that case were a same-sex couple. It could have been a same-sex couple, an opposite-sex couple, whomever—it's the *principle* that the court articulated in the case that we believe could be generally applied to limit the ability of government to create programs. I don't want the gay and lesbian community to think that this appeal is about them. I know it sounds strange, because the case is a same-sex couple case—it isn't; it's about the general principle the court articulated that we feel we need to have clarified.

Outlooks: Obviously I'm speaking with you now as deputy prime minister; if you were prime minister, how would you like your Canada viewed on the world stage?

McLellan: If you go back to our very beginnings, where we had aboriginal people, the English and the French, you'll see we have always been a nation that has understood the importance of tolerance and accommodation—because of our diversity, because of our plurality. I think we have a lot to offer the world in terms of how we take a multicultural society and make it work, how we live peacefully and respectfully in a country with many different languages, different religions, different ethnic backgrounds, different philosophies. We are able to respect each other and, while I agree we are not perfect and have our rough spots, we are able to work things out. ▼

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By Rick Matthews

If you were an American, why would you come to Canada for your holiday? Would it be because we're leading the way when it comes to gay marriage? Or maybe it would be because we'll soon be honoured in Philadelphia at the Equality Forum 2004 for our contribution to GLBT civil rights? Are you perhaps coming here just because our boys are so damn cute? If you answer was "all of the above", you'd be right.

I recently travelled to Philadelphia, the "city of brotherly love", as part of their effort to bring media attention—and tourists—to their city. The Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation recently launched a USD\$900,000 campaign, USD\$300,000 for the next three years, to increase its share of the country's annual USD\$54.1 billion gay/lesbian travel market. For comparison's sake, last year Toronto Tourism, facing a major blow in the age of SARS, spent CDN\$25,000 promoting gay tourism and Montréal spent CDN\$200,000 to attract the queer dollar (they plan to increase that to CDN\$300,000 this year).

I also went to Philly, city of brotherly love, to learn more about the Equality Forum, a week-long global GLBT symposium and festival which will take place April 26 to May 2, where Canada will be honoured as the forum's "feature nation" for 2004. The event already boasts quite a roster of Canadian guests, including Martin Cauchon, former Attorney General, who will be given the 'Ninth Annual International Role Model Award' for his support of queer civil rights and gay marriage. Other guests will include Svend Robinson, Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray and North America's first gay married couple, Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell.

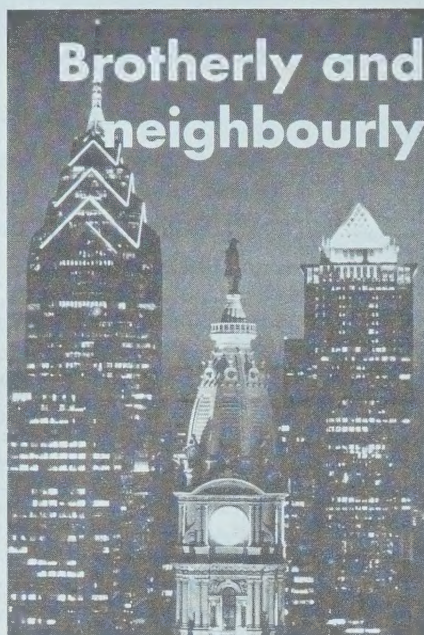
The symposium will feature these prominent Canadians in various discussions in an effort to shed some light on why Canada has been successful in the push for queer civil rights. The fifty-five program topics taking place over the week will range from discussions about gay marriage to a special spotlight on Canada's history called "From Monarchy to Equality", which looks at how the "loyalists who left Philadelphia in the late 1770s found a nation that today eclipses the United States in providing equality for all its citizens". A surprisingly self-deprecating description considering Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director of the forum, calls Philadelphia the "birthplace of democracy and liberty". "Canada has led on issues of GLBT civil rights," says Lazin, "and Canada exemplifies equality."

Hoping to ride on the forum's pro-Canadian wave will be the relatively new Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which plans to push our country as a sure-fire-hit tourist destination to the almost 50,000 people expected to attend the event. Preliminary studies commissioned by the CGLCC predict that thirty-one percent of Americans are considering a trip to Canada this year: thirteen percent to Montréal, eleven percent to Toronto and nine percent to Vancouver. Darrell Schuurman, co-founder of CGLCC, hopes to tap into that potential market during the forum. "By having Canada as the featured nation, it helps to reinforce that Canada is a progressive, open and inviting country. Throughout the entire event, we will be incorporating Canadian content...including a panel session dedicated solely to gay travel within Canada."

And what lessons is the CGLCC taking from Philadelphia's tourism marketing strategy?

"The U.S. GLBT travel market has been relatively untapped by Canada and we are continually losing market share to destinations that have realized the value of the market and have actively targeted it. Philadelphia's marketing campaign is another example of how other cities are eclipsing Canadian cities," says Schuurman. The CGLCC hopes to use the success of Philadelphia's campaign by highlighting the city's return on their investment, to convince local, provincial and federal governments to start investing more marketing dollars into gay travel.

With the slogan "Get your history straight and your nightlife gay", the GPTMC is spending big dollars to market their city from every angle, including a print campaign



that depicts Philly's most famous resident Ben Franklin flying his famous kite. The twist? It's a Pride kite. The ambitious marketing campaign may not be the first of its kind in the U.S., but the city is home to many firsts in American history: the first hospital, the first zoo and the first protests against slavery. It was in Philadelphia where the Declaration of Independence was signed, the U.S. Constitution was ratified and it's home to the Liberty Bell, a prominent symbol of freedom for the city. There's no question that Philadelphia has played a prominent role in American history and, while Canada will soon be honoured for its recent influence on civil rights (most notably on gay marriage), Philadelphia can also take some pride in its part in the fight for gay rights.

During my trip I discovered the city was the site of some of the nation's first gay rights protests—before the Stonewall Riots that took place in New York City—and that, in 1982, Philadelphia became one of the first states to pass a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Philadelphia also has a vibrant gay village, called the "gayborhood", which serves as the heart of the city's long gay history. In between searching for the best Philly cheesesteak and heading to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to run up those famous stairs (just call me Rocky), I had the chance to talk with activist Mark Segal, publisher of *Philadelphia Gay News*. In his fight for equality, Segal says he's been arrested "more times than I can remember. I was arrested so often I got to know some of the officers on a first name basis." One of Segal's most famous moments took place in 1973, when he interrupted a live broadcast of the *CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite by walking behind him with a giant placard that read, "Gays protest CBS bigotry." Now that takes guts.

The upcoming Equality Forum will be the largest collaboration between the GLBT communities of two nations, both of which are working to further gay civil rights in their own countries. As the press-trip drew to a close, I came to realize that what makes a tourism campaign or a symposium successful doesn't only revolve around marketing and dollars, although that's certainly part of it. In the larger sense, success for queer communities—on either side of the border—rests on our continued collaboration, giving support to one another with our tourist dollars and the understanding that we're all part of the push for equality. ▼

Rick Matthews is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. With the aim of taking a true look at the diversity of the gay community he's done work for Fab and appeared as a guest-host on SoGayTV.

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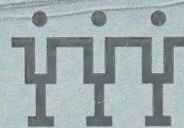
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THE

A B C'S

OF DECORATING

By Alykhan Velji

Generally speaking, after a winter of “cabin fever”, people have had the opportunity to examine their homes at close quarters—and many decide that it’s time for a change. Unfortunately, they’ve also been bombarded by images and ideas from HGTV, TLC and Life Network shows (to name only a few), an influence that can make redecorating seem like a daunting task. And, while it *can* be, with just a few simple pointers you can make your own interior facelift a rewarding and, above all, pleasurable experience. It’s as simple as A-B-C.

A SSESS

Most of us won’t go on vacation without first figuring out how much transportation, accommodation and incidentals will cost—so why should decorating be any different? Unlike a holiday, which only lasts for a set period, decorating choices are ones we usually have to live with for a longer time. The smartest thing you can do prior to starting a decorating project is to decide how much money you want to spend on it—then double that amount (your “actual” costs should fall comfortably in-between). There is a reason people will warn you that home refurbishment projects “cost twice as much and take three times as long” as you expect—it’s true. Even when this *isn’t* the case, having realistic expectations of budget and your project’s duration will save you a lot of worry, not to mention unnecessarily spent time and money in the long run.

Before you set out on your journey, make a list of all the things you want to accomplish and then prioritize them. If you plan on making major changes, such as installing flooring or even painting, put those steps ahead of things like new furniture and accessories. Believe me, you’ll worry yourself to death trying to get “messy” work done around your new treasures, even if they are covered in plastic or tarps. Also, it’s important to remember that just because an item is further down your list, it doesn’t become less important. Accessories are a good example of this—they can make or break a room, much like a tie or hot leather cuff can complete an ensemble beautifully. In fact, try thinking of your room as an outfit: main elements like flooring and walls are like pants and a shirt, while furniture, lamps and other accent items are like a sharp jacket, a great pair of shoes or a beautiful belt.

Once you have a fairly clear idea of what you think you’d like to accomplish, do some research into the average cost of the items you’d like to purchase or the changes you’d like to make. This will help you map out a ballpark figure for each item on your list and, if necessary, help you plan a timeline based in your financial situation. Once this is done, you’re ready to go shopping, right? Not quite.

B REAK FREE

There’s a reason that TV shows like BBC’s *Life Laundry* and its American counterpart *Clean Sweep* are so popular—almost everyone has too much junk in their lives. You don’t, however, need hosts and a camera crew to help you remove clutter from your home, you just have to be determined and *ruthless*. One rule I live by is that anything I haven’t used for at least a year needs to go somewhere else, whether it’s a thrift store or the dumpster. I try to make my yearly clear-out a bit of an event and it feels great. Trust me, you’ll feel much freer to decorate after you have a de-clutter fest of your own.

For the beginner, the key to decorating a room successfully is to start with as clean a slate as possible—this will allow you to see your room for what it *can* be, rather than what it *is*. Once you’ve cleared your space (it’s wise to tackle only one room at a time,

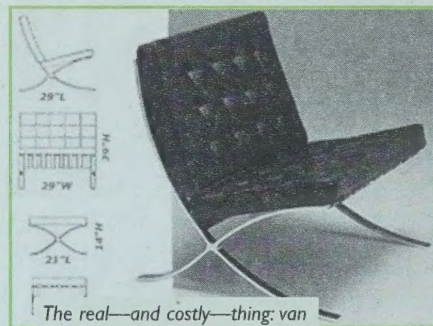
so you have somewhere to put things “in limbo”), re-introduce your main pieces one at a time, trying them in different spots and in conjunction with other items as they come in. You’ll be surprised at how obvious your “keeper” possessions will become and at how easily you’ll be able to spot what’s needed to complete the room. This may also have an effect on the list you made when you were determining budget. Try breaking down the items on your new list into two distinct categories: need and want. Doing this will help streamline your next—and most fun—step, which is... shopping!

C ONSUME

Although your excitement level may make you want to run out and do *all* your shopping in one fell swoop, you will feel better about the choices you make and the money you spend if you take the slow and steady approach. When selecting the major items for your room—a sofa, a bed, larger-scale tables—it’s important to remember that simpler items are better choices in the long run. After all, if you are shelling out large sums of money for your “anchor” pieces, you want to make sure their appeal will last longer than just a year or two. Always bear in mind that trends and fads are more easily and affordably acknowledged in your smaller scale or accessory items, things you can change regularly without breaking the bank—or your back, if you’re constantly shifting out big furnishings!

Scale—the relative size of your pieces—is also an important factor in making your choices, so be aware of both the limitations and opportunities your home presents you. Remember, big pieces in a smaller space are not necessarily a bad thing, but they will make a room seem more closed in and intimate, so be careful with the pieces you choose if you don’t want the room to look cluttered. Conversely, a few carefully selected large pieces can appear more “substantial” if used in conjunction with a more minimalist theme. If you’re in doubt about a potential item, measure it first and then try a paper or cardboard cut-out of it in your home; this will allow you to see if the size will work not only with your room, but also with the other pieces you decided to keep after your clear-out.

As mentioned before, one of the biggest factors involved in home décor shopping is budget. Large or small, you have to respect it. However, this doesn’t mean you have to miss out on achieving a specific look just because you don’t have a million bucks to spend. Again, research is key, and stylish pieces can be found or adapted for a surprisingly small amount of money. For example, Koolhaus, a retailer with stores in Vancouver, Whistler and most recently in Calgary, offers a matte plastic rendition of the Panton chair for only CDN\$315, a bargain compared to the glossy Fiberglas version they also sell at CDN\$1595. Love the look of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s “Barcelona chair” but don’t want to put out the (up to) \$3,500 a licensed version demands? Then check out the “Chicago” knock-off available through Urban Outfitters, a steal at only USD\$210. Many other hip offerings are available through their website, located at www.urbanoutfitters.com, and can be shipped by UPS ground service throughout North America. Also, don’t forget that a bit of creative adaptation (paint, new hardware, new upholstery) can make basic pieces from Ikea or even Wal-Mart distinctly your own. Don’t be afraid to shop second hand. Remember, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, and garage and yard sales are perfect for finding pieces that you can refurbish yourself.



The real—and costly—thing: van der Rohe’s “Barcelona chair”

Finally, always keep in mind that many sales people make their living based on *sales*, so don’t allow them to unduly influence your choices or pressure you to make a purchase on the spot, particularly if you’re not certain. A good retail “ally” will always leave the final decision up to you, content in knowing that you will most likely come back to them to fulfill your other needs if they treat you with proper care and respect.

I hope this overview of basics proves to be of value to you. Decorating can be fun and affordable if done correctly—just make sure to be realistic and not get in “over your head” ▼



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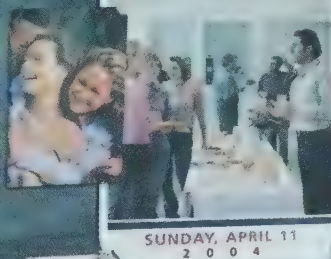
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A closetful of sequins



By Gerard MacMullin

It struck me like a ton of cheap rhinestones as I strolled through the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas: it's impossible for a city with this much glitter to be straight. Maybe, like Liberace himself, Vegas just never came out. That's really queer, I thought, standing amid the late performer's fabulous collection of jewelry, furs and feathers.

Who needs South Beach, the Castro or Provincetown? As we rush to embrace the Fab Five, extreme home and body makeovers and unfettered sex in the shrubbery, Las Vegas—where nothing exceeds like excess—ought to be our capital city.

It's a magnet for the famous and the infamous. It's where Britney had her fifty-five-hour wedding and where Jacko headed after his Santa Barbara booking. It's cheesy, tasteless and shamelessly superficial—who can appreciate that more than we can?

Oh, sure, you'll find lots of heterosexuals here: conservative convention-goers, suburban couples on weekend passes and highball-sipping grannies snuggling up to the nickel slots for days on end. Scantly clad cocktail waitresses, topless reviews and fast food-style wedding chapels give the town an undeniable heterosexual flavour.

You can't blame the well-heeled gay boy who's touched the toe of David in Florence

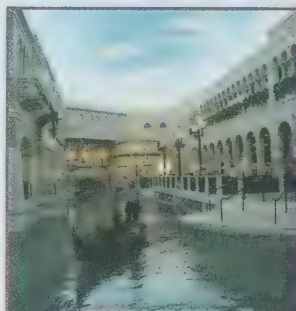
for feeling that Vegas is—well, a little vulgar. But why go all the way to Italy? Learn to love the fake canals and gondoliers at the Venetian Hotel and still have plenty of time left over to touch the cape of an Elvis impersonator. Or kiss the ring of a *faux* Liberace.

Wes Winters treated a friend of mine to a dazzling rendition of Happy Birthday on a rhinestone-encrusted piano from Liberace's Radio City Music Hall concert—his final public performance. Winters does a tribute

Portrait of the author (right front) as a young fan: tickled like ivories at the Liberace Museum

show at the museum, several blocks off the Strip. Although I went reluctantly—my friend insisted on spending his birthday there—the visit became a gay classic, given our chat with the star, a quick song, the applause and, of course, a stop at the gift shop and snack bar, the former featuring the must-have Liberace bobble head.

Even our eighty-three-year-old tour guide Connie—looking smart with her carefully coiffed platinum hair, dramatic black suit and a rhinestone choker the size of a VW—could have just stepped off the set of *Will & Grace*.



Venice-schmenice! A concept that's all wet—and much appreciated—in a town like Las Vegas

Connie led us past a surreal collection of the late performer's automobiles—including a Rolls Royce covered in Swarovski crystal—and eighteen of his rare pianos, among them the Chickering Baby Grand on which George Gershwin composed much of his music. Across the plaza and just beyond a neighbouring gay bar, we finished our tour in a gallery that houses a collection of jewellery, memorabilia and more than twenty of Liberace's stage costumes. Nothing says fashion like tri-colour, bicentennial-themed hot pants and a diamond-lined black mink!

Entertainment in the big showrooms on the Strip still includes a huge selection of over-the-hill crooners, '70s **continued opposite**



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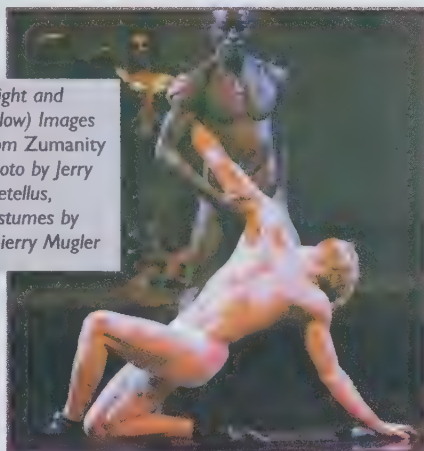


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(Right and below) Images from Zumanity
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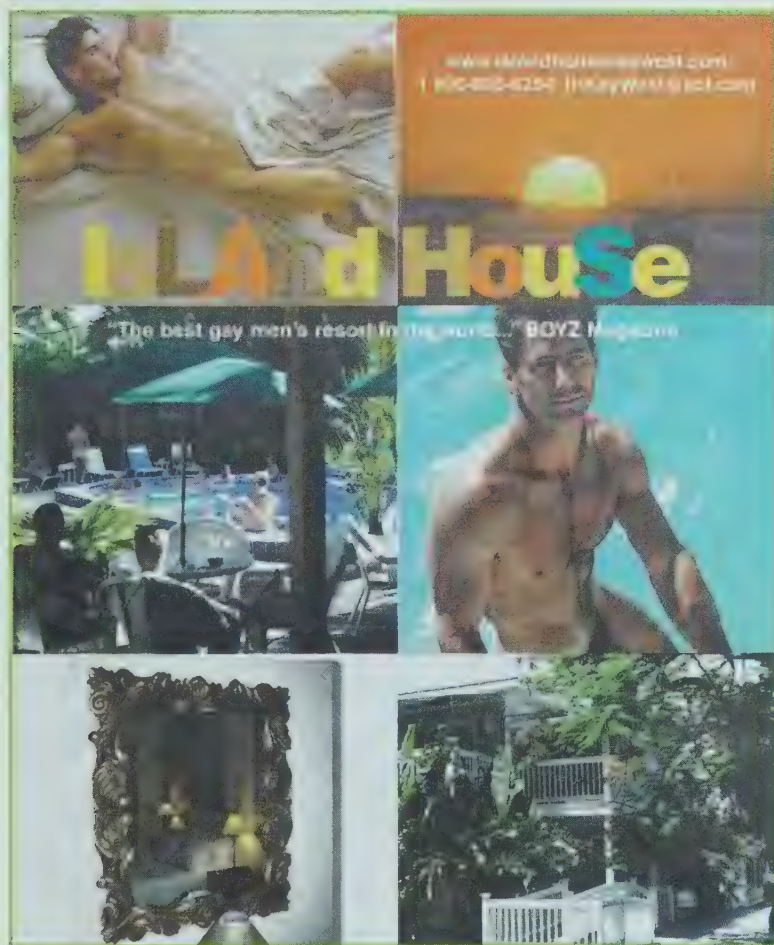


Sure, the streets are alive with the sound of ka-ching, but you don't have to be straight or a high roller to have a great time here. Four-night air and hotel packages for as little as CDN\$299 from Vancouver give you the Eiffel Tower, the sphinx, the Statue of Liberty, the treasures of Arabia, King Tut's tomb, gods of the Roman Empire, the Starship Enterprise and gigantic

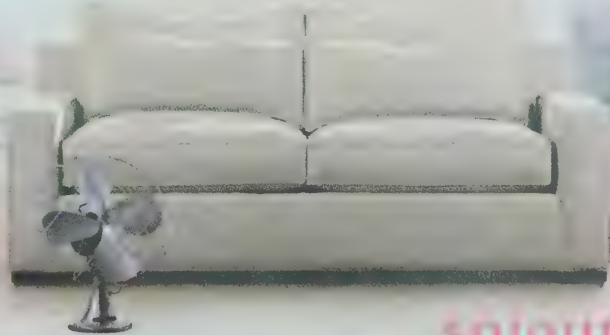
As for Vegas, I've figured it out. A city with this much glamour, glitz and fishnet can't fool me. ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer/broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.

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Accessories, after a fashion

By Vida

Judging by some of those in attendance, the recent Mode Accessories Show in Calgary could easily have been billed as “Cougarpalooza”, so tanned and bleached were the industry-types perusing the booths. The Calgary exhibition was a first for the Mode Group, based as they are in Toronto, and organizers seemed pleased by both attendance and the amenities the new Roundup Centre afforded them. Though not dictated by its geographic position in the west, the show could easily have been summed up as “the good, the bad and the ugly”—although this can be said of *any* trade show, where the true gems are buried under piles of mass-market debris. The following are some of the precious trends in evidence at the spring show, unearthed and exalted with *Outlooks* readers in mind.

Amber-dexterous

While a fly in the ointment is almost always a bad thing, a fly in your jewellery makes a definite statement—not to mention a great conversation piece. Once relatively pricey (especially since it's just petrified tree sap), amber has become a more “democratic” commodity, particularly with the increase in quality and quantity of material coming out of the Baltic states in recent years. And, with pop fare like *Starsky and Hutch* being “re-envisioned” for the big screen, and continued inspiration being drawn from the best (and worst) of '70s and '80s chic, this earthy, debris-laden treasure is ripe for a renaissance.

Puzzled by how this humble “stone” fits into the upper echelons of designer fashion? Don't be: just imagine this golden oldie highly polished and set in silver to complement current “urbane cowboy” looks, or the highly glamorous “Eurotrash party rat” trend that's quickly emerging. More natural, rugged stones would work beautifully with D-Squared's continually evolving rocker hottie looks, as well as some of the hip hippie offerings we've seen recently from the likes of Iceberg, Raf Simons and, to some extent, Roberto Cavalli.

Even though the ring's the thing in the world of amber jewellery for men, other honey-sweet options do exist. With warmer weather (one hopes) on the way, why not try a strand of pea-sized chunks worn choker-length at the throat? Or twist several lengths of tiny beads around your wrist for an upscale update on surfer style? Either would be superb with beachwear or linen, and amber looks *fabulous* next to tanned skin. Not just a day dweller, its versatility translates to dressed-down evening wear, too, as square- or cabuchon-cut cufflinks would be scrumptious against sorbet-pale pastel Oxford cloth or the crispness of linens.

With the market opening up wider than ever before, the variety of amber available is equally broad, from pale French vanilla and butterscotch tones to the deepest and most classic “cola bronze”. This range was most evident at the Mode show in the wares of Baltic Amber Limited, a Toronto-based company that deals exclusively in the product. They welcome dealer inquiries (*only*) through their website, located at www.balticamberltd.com.

Got Wood?

Continuing with an earthy theme for spring and summer, another material in abundant evidence at the accessories show was wood. Far removed from the “scruffiness” of the forest, the wares on display had been elevated and embraced as a much more precious commodity than what we're used to seeing in such pedestrian objects as telephone poles, construction cladding and park benches. One Canadian designer that has definitely carved a niche in the market is Susan Fiedler, of Soul Flower Superfine Jewelry Design. Fiedler, who now makes her home on the west coast, works such natural materials as wood, bone, shell and coral into stunningly simple—and eminently wearable—works of art. Her elasticized bracelets of wood panels and tiny “planks” take over where the leather cuff leaves off and offer a perfect, almost tropical accessory option to the bright and breezy pieces we'll soon be sporting in the warmer months. Her western-style belt buckles of wood and mother-of-pearl are also quite gorgeous—absolutely *devastating* with distressed denim on a well-loved vintage belt. Check out www.soulflower.com for a glimpse of Fiedler's work, or e-mail the company at info@soulflower.com for stockists in your area.

Not to be outdone, Oceana International has scored a hit with their line of classics-inspired watches, wittily realized in rich and exotic woods. Raging in tone from beechy-orange to deepest ebony, these timepieces would look great paired with a gauzy long-sleeved shirt or an unstructured tropical suit. For dealer inquiries or more information on retailers near you, contact the company by e-mail at oceanaintl@email.com.

Big Time

While hours, minutes and seconds may be precious to us, the keeping of same need not be—or at least not so costly than those with more dash than cash can afford to explore a variety of options in their time-keeping choices. Axcnt, a relatively new company that employs the talents of Scandinavian artists, has broken into the North American marketplace with a strong line (actually several) of up-to-the-minute watches for men and women—all affordable enough to allow devotees to invest in a range of styles. Although chunky timepieces are nothing new, this style-conscious company has taken the look to a whole new level with quirky face details and band options that include several denim washes, pastel-hued “mock croc” and elasticized cording. Even their most classic-looking items are taken from old to bold with such fun touches as overlapping, oversized numbers and single-digit “reference points” (a solo nine in the case of Petra Nygren's “Icebreaker”). For more information on the line itself or where to find stockists in your area, log onto their site at www.axcent.se.

watches from Axcnt



Plastic Fantastic

Even if it wasn't the “real” man-made thing, the *concept* of plastic offered a sleek counterpoint to the many natural materials on display at the show. Whether mineral, glass, resin, Lucite or an honest-to-goodness chain of polymer molecules, smoothly fabricated accessories were in abundance, often presented in an eye-catching range of colours. Topping the list were “statement” rings in either sharp geometric or sensuous, amorphous shapes. One standout in particular came from Silver Candy: a chunk of coloured tiger's eye wrought into a strong and simple cube. The *strée* effect of their chosen material was indicative of the diversity of finishes available at the moment, with transparent, translucent, opaque and marble (as in “bag of marbles”) treatments sharing the spotlight equally. Body-mod supply companies seem particularly keen on pieces in clear coloured acrylic or striped marble bands suspended in transparent forms. Drag queens take heart: whether you choose a ring, a necklace or a bracelet, the latest generation of plastic accessories are substantial enough in scale to make any part of you look positively delicate when you're dolled up in your finery.

Look Out

—How “Lo” can you go? As someone who *hates* the culture of conspicuous consumption, I'm thrilled by the cheekiness of so-called “bargain-basement bling”. Several vendors at the Mode show offered frankly fake diamanté pendants that ran the gamut of irony from Superman crests to cannabis leaves. A particular favourite was the collection of short-drop, single initial pendants that fell somewhere between the trailer park and Tiffany; I snatched up several of the “Q” variety for those friends who are queeny, queer or quonfused. Look for them at sidewalk stalls and in mall outlets that cater to slutty teenaged girls.

—The reversed-out hibiscus silhouette seems to be getting a “run for our money” from Balinese batiks or prints inspired by same. Look for them in the stoniest of earth tones to the fruitiest of tropical hues. Up for a challenge? Grab a batik tool and a couple of packets of Dylan to lend a custom look to tired summer pieces.

—Stripes are straightening themselves out in anticipation of summer. Diagonals, though no longer *de rigueur*, are still acceptable, but vertical stripes are lined up to leap into the spotlight in a big way. Look for them in a range of sizes and frequencies, although ticking width in both acid pastels and tropical tones are what will sizzle most through the spring and summer months. ▼

After earning a BFA in costume history and design, Vida has regularly shared practical knowledge of the good life through such venues as *Vida's Vanity Fare* (Xtra! West), *C'est La Vida* (Buzz) and as a contributing broadcaster to CBC Radio's *RealTime*. Dolce Vida marks a return to fashion writing after an almost eight-year absence.

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Board, Not Bored!

This year's BoD and executive are excited about the festivities planned for Pride 2004.



Team Player

Linda, of GirlsGo.ca, apparently quite happy to be involved with plans for Pride.

GRAND OPENING

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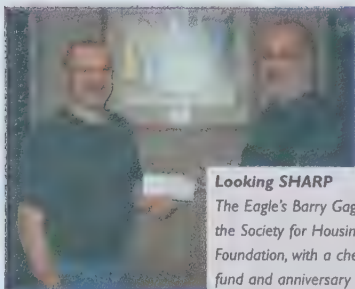


To Put On You, Not In You!

Quorra employees with a tray of samples for Gillian and Jenifer's well-wishers.

CHEQUE PRESENTATION

CALGARY EAGLE



Looking SHARP

The Eagle's Barry Gagliardi presents Terry Bryant, of the Society for Housing AIDS-Restricted People Foundation, with a cheque from the bar's calendar fund and anniversary party massage initiative.

DIFFERENT STROKES MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER

HILLHURST-SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE



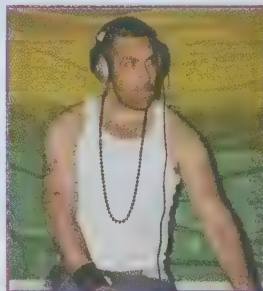
Buff Stuff

Not to be outdone, Steven, Mikko, Kris and Steve dragged out their best-ive and festive for the occasion.



Top This, Bourbon Street!

Barry arrived in full regalia—we have a feeling it was Mardi Gras wherever he went that evening!



Alphabet Lesson

DJ RMG kept the vinyl—and the room—spinning well into the night.



Masker-Aid

Organizers had "the goods" on hand for those revellers who came unprepared.



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(From left) Constable Doug Jones, of the Calgary Police Service, Melissa Luhtanen and Jane Oxenbury, pose with their Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation cheque at the launch of the Youthsafe.net website

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Photos By: Outlooks Staff

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

MONEY-PENNIES

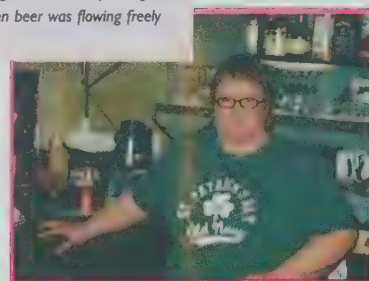
Lesbo-chaun?

While Lorrie might not have a pot o' gold on tap, the green beer was flowing freely that night!



Big-time Brightness

It's hard to say who's glowing more—Cindy or the St. Paddy's sign!



Spreading the word

By Outlooks Staff

On Sunday, February 29, Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury and Josée Gagnéux, co-president and sports director respectively for Rendez-Vous Montréal, made an appearance in Calgary to promote the upcoming mega-event in gay sport and culture. The information session, hosted by Team Calgary, was an opportunity for Tewksbury and Gagnéux to address questions and concerns arising from their organization's split with the Federation of Gay Games.



Powerful points: Mark Tewksbury outlines the case for supporting Rendez-Vous Montréal in 2006

In November 2003, after feverish rounds of negotiation, the FGG withdrew its support for Montréal as the host city for the 2006 edition of the games. Financial control over the event and concerns over the number of proposed participants were apparently key factors in the federation's decision. Shortly before press time, the FGG awarded the 2006 Gay Games to one of the remaining contenders, Chicago.

Undaunted by the controversy that arose from the disagreement, Tewksbury and Gagnéux shared their enthusiasm in a presentation that was slick, informative and, above all, fair.

"This is a difficult time," Tewksbury told *Outlooks* in an exclusive interview the day of the meeting. "We lived through the crisis for the past year and we've chosen to move forward. We want to take the high road and make this a positive thing."

He was also quick to point out that the Rendez-Vous Montréal info sessions, which have taken place in various centres internationally, are anything but damage control. "This was *always* part of our marketing scheme," he stressed. "Part of what we feel is really important is that people meet us—that they get to see us and hear what we have to say."

"We don't want to put pressure on people, we want to say 'These are the facts, here's how we see it from our perspective and these are the kind of people we are,'" he continued. "Knowing how great this event will be, it's hard to understand how the FGG couldn't share our vision."

Across the board, Tewksbury and Gagnéux's presentation was overwhelmingly positive, preferring to focus on the many enticing aspects of Montréal's capabilities as a host city rather than negative politics. Using PowerPoint visuals and cold, hard facts, the pair engaged their assembled audience with a comprehensive pitch before opening the floor up to questions and comments. Central to the presentation was the idea that Montréal has been moving towards its goal of hosting a major gay sporting event since before the rift occurred. Gagnéux, in particular, was emphatic in her assertion that Rendez-Vous Montréal was literally years ahead of whatever the FGG could even attempt to mount in what is now such a short period of time. She cited such examples as corporate and governmental sponsorship, confirmation of world-class sports venues and an established registration system as just a few examples of the many "positives" for Montréal 2006. "We have, you see, all these things ready two years out," she told the crowd, "and still the FGG is deciding where their event will take place."

At the time of the meeting, Tewksbury mentioned that the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation would soon be voting on whether or not to leave the Federation of Gay Games altogether. Just over one week later the 100-team, 10,000-member strong organization voted to exit the FGG and throw its support behind Montréal's event, a development that bodes well for achieving Rendez-Vous' projected 16,000 participant capacity.

Speculating on the outcome of the EGLSF decision, Tewksbury said: "There has been a real shift in the gay sports movement—not in the Gay Games but gay sports in general. We feel there's a real void in leadership, and the sooner people start to see that and assume responsibility for where it's going to go, the better it will be for all of us."

By the end of the session, it appeared that Tewksbury and Gagnéux's enthusiasm was infectious: of those in attendance, a majority seemed genuinely excited by the prospect of a whole new era in gay competitive sport, as could be defined by Montréal 2006. For more information on attendance, registration or the event itself, log onto www.montreal2006.org for updates and assistance. ▼

Not Your Average Joe

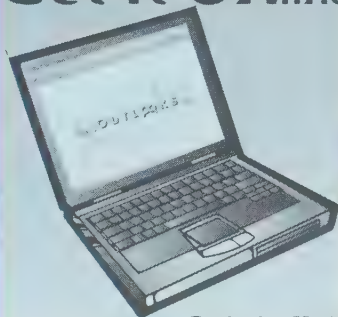
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Monsters of all kinds

By Outlooks Staff

Three men, two women, wine, opium, endless days, endless nights and the most fertile of imaginations.

Consider the possibilities, the permutations and the combinations. *The Calgary Sun's* Louis Hobson did just that and came up with *The Monster Makers*, a play that won best production and best director at last month's Calgary Adult Drama Festival.

Adjudicator Valerie Pearson chose Hobson's play from the eleven entries to represent Calgary at the Provincial Adult Festival in Hinton on April 23 and 24. Hobson's play transports its audiences to a villa on the shores of Switzerland's Lake Geneva in the summer of 1816. The English poet George Gordon Lord Byron and his male lover, the young Italian doctor John Polidori, met with the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, his eighteen-year-old mistress Mary Godwin and her sister Clair Clairmont. They drank copious amounts of wine, smoked opium, made love and spent their evenings telling ghost stories. Two of the greatest creatures of literature, the vampire and Frankenstein's monster, were conceived that summer.

"It's a true story that reads like fiction. It's too wild and bizarre *not* to be completely true," says playwright Hobson. "I first stumbled on it in the 1970s when I was studying the Romantic poets. Outside our classroom, the hippies were dropping acid, smoking dope and extolling free love. Inside the classroom we were reading about a group of young radicals who had done exactly the same thing 150 years earlier.

"I said then it would make a wild play, but back in the '70s a discussion of explicit bisexual relations was something you didn't expect to see on stage or in film," Hobson continues. "I vowed I'd take a crack at it and, as you can see, I'm a slow starter."

This famous story of sex and ghost stories has fuelled several films, including Ken Russell's 1987 release, *Gothic*.

Hobson says the story gets even stranger:

"Percy Bysshe Shelley had left his wife and two children in London to travel with Mary and their young child. Before he started his affair with Mary, Shelley had had a brief fling with her sister Clair. When Shelley abandoned her for Mary, Clair was determined to get herself another poet, so she set her sights on Byron, who was a notorious seducer of beautiful women *and* beautiful men. When Clair arrived in Switzerland with Shelley and Mary, she announced to Byron that she was pregnant with his child—only to discover she had a rival for Byron's affections in the young doctor."

Hobson's play takes place in the living room of the villa that Byron and his friends rented that summer in Geneva. It takes the audience through the quintet's serpentine love lives and introduces them to the fruits of these people's wild imaginations.

"Because Mary Godwin/Shelley's *Frankenstein* has become such a classic horror story, people have all but forgotten that Polidori created an equally scary monster in his story *The Vampyr*," explains Hobson. He adds, "the vampire in Polidori's tale is Byron, and that vision of the handsome creature is what inspired Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. So you could say, as we imply in *The Monster Makers*, that Byron is Dracula. You just have to find out why..."

Hobson says that the character of Dr. Polidori and the reasons he created *The Vampyr* became the focus of his story. He thinks the Polidori and Byron relationship can best be understood "in terms of the rock star culture of today. It was Matt [Blais]—who plays Polidori—who drew the parallel, and it's a vital one. Bisexuality among rockers is as common as the common cold and it is really the one area of the arts where fans *don't* have a seizure if one of their idols admits to having male as well as female lovers. The Romantic Poets were literally the rock stars of their generation."

Hobson explains that Polidori was seduced by Byron's reputation long before he was actually seduced by the poet himself. "The interesting dynamic in *The Monster Makers* is watching Polidori grow from being Byron's 'lap dog' to being in control of their relationship—which, in May-December gay relationships, is often the case," he notes. "If you can call a six-year difference 'May-December' because Byron was twenty-six and Polidori was

twenty going on twenty-one. In the 19th century that was considered quite an age difference for lovers."

The play shows how the young doctor was seduced by Byron's incredible charisma through exploring Shelley's reaction to the pair's relationship. "Like Polidori, Shelley had never considered a male-to-male relationship until he met Byron," Hobson says, "but he quickly became jealous of Polidori."

"We had great fun developing the scenes in which Shelley offers himself to Byron. We feel that, of all the times writers and actors have explored the relationships of these five people, none have shown how Byron's pansexuality fuelled all the literature that came from those three months."



The cast of Louis Hobson's play *The Monster Makers*

Hobson says to better understand the sexual climate of the Romantic Age, it helps to think in terms of the '70s and '80s:

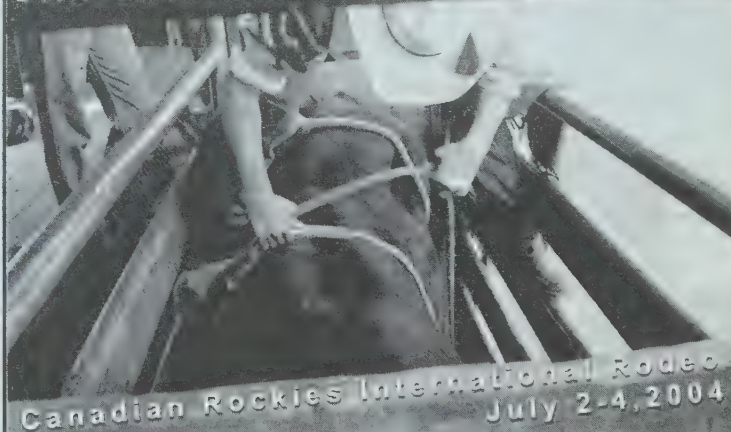
"Bisexuality was tolerated, if not completely accepted, in Britain during the Romantic Age. Byron was expelled from England, not because he had young male lovers but because he was into S&M. Right after the Romantic Age we had the Victorian Age, and we saw how Oscar Wilde was publicly crucified for admitting his bisexuality. And he was no more outspoken or outrageous than Byron!"

In her adjudication, Valerie Pearson said *The Monster Makers* was the finest example of ensemble acting she'd seen at this year's festival. Before the show takes off for the Provincial Drama Festival in Hinton, it will have a one-week run in the Pumphouse's intimate Joyce Doolittle Theatre, April 13 through 17. Because the Doolittle has a seating capacity of just seventy seats, it's advisable to book tickets in advance. They are available at a cost of \$15 each and can be reserved by calling The Pumphouse at (403) 263-0079, or by logging on to their website at www.pumphousetheatres.ca. ▼



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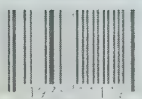


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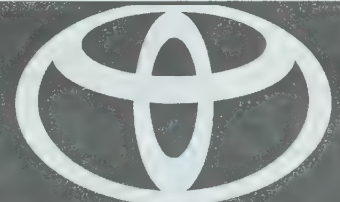


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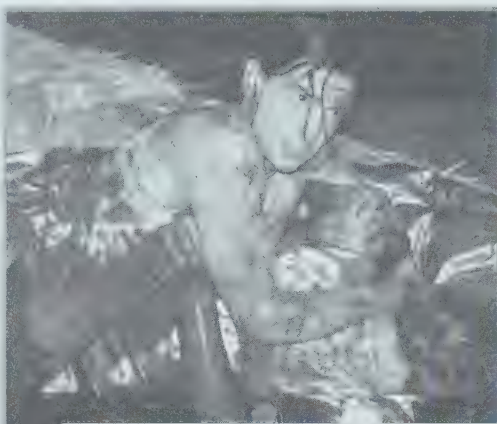
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Jeff takes a break from smothering his opponent in rich, gooey goodness to see if the crowd is hungry yet.



Splashdown!

Just add water and (cause a) stir—and we thought Jeff was hot in chocolate!



Chocoholics!

Even though they didn't participate in the wrestling action, Meghan, Dale and Terry still came away with some tasty raffle prizes.



Dawn of the Delicious?

Looking a wee bit ghoulish, Eliza steps out of the ring accepting her bittersweet defeat. What a good sport!

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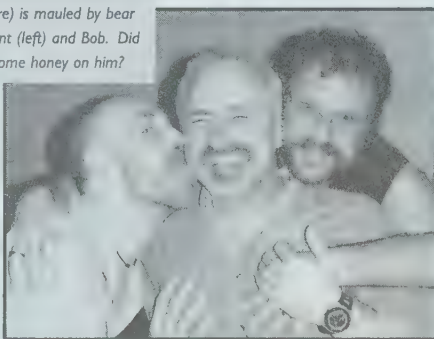
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We're Stuck Like Velcro!

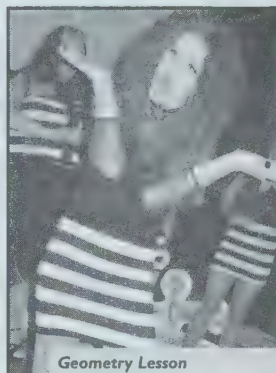
Reg (centre) is mauled by bear lovers Brent (left) and Bob. Did he have some honey on him?



We Are Amused

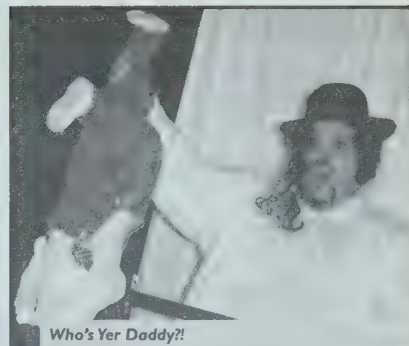
The happy couple, Reece (left) and Liz, got the best seats in the house to enjoy the performers who made their night one to remember.

PIMP-A-LICIOUS PARTY GIO'S



Geometry Lesson

It was all about lines and angles when Penelope Vanderloon performed her take on the Cellblock Tango.



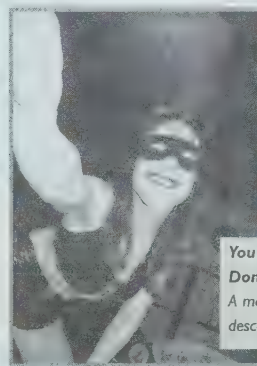
Who's Yer Daddy?

Jimmy Lickit does his part to highlight the questionability of M.J.'s parenting skills—set to music, no less!



Do These Tickets Make My Ass Look Fat?

Tina Turney-Stomach raffles 'em from the rear... playing to the crowd's tastes, are we?

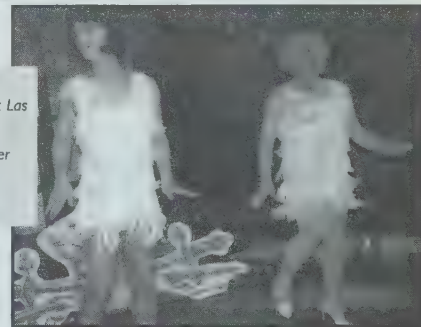


You Feel Like Stuart Little Now, Dontcha?!

A masked Guenivere De-Giovanni Horse descends on Outlooks' helpless paparazzo.

Fringe Benefits

Grace Land and Liz Las Vegas kick it up a notch with a number from Chicago.



There's One!

Lucy Lube wowed 'em with her "picking up quarters" routine. We hope she's all right... and a few bucks richer!





A new Rainbow resident

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

At thirty-eight, Kim Allen is only slightly older than Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre, a clearinghouse for information and programs affecting the GLBT community in the city. The centre, hub of many gay and lesbian education and help projects, is now in its thirty-first year.

A native of Ontario, Allen was appointed to the position of centre coordinator in mid-February, after having taken over as interim coordinator when longtime employee Donna Huen left for greener pastures late last year.

Allen, an avid soccer player who has been kicking the ball since the age of eight, brings many talents to the job, including some unlikely ones. For instance, she occasionally appears as a randy, clowning, centenarian lesbian who lives in a nursing home and whose great ambition in life is to enter the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the lesbian who's had the greatest number of lovers in one lifetime.

Allen loves to perform her clowning roles in public and has several alter egos when in a stagey mood. "My performance of the ancient lesbian begins with her masturbating on stage," she says. "The trick is to get people to laugh with you, and I use the European style clowning theatre quite often to make political points."

She came across a troupe of European style clowns, based in Montréal, on a past visit to Winnipeg. They had a Czech background and she was so fascinated by their use of clowning and political, physical theatre that she signed up to take some of their courses in Montréal.

She says clowning helps relieve some of her own stresses and frustrations and it can be very effective in making a point.

Allen arrived in Winnipeg last October, after spending the past sixteen years working mostly for non-profit organizations in Peterborough, Ontario. She felt that Peterborough, population 87,000, had become a "glass box" for her and she wanted new challenges. Result: she put all her belongings into a twenty-four-foot U-haul trailer and headed west without any prearranged job.

"I had visited Winnipeg a few years ago and loved the friendly people and the creative side of the city," she says. "I had a few friends here, then heard that the Rainbow Resource Centre needed a coordinator. For me, it's an absolutely ideal job because it uses all the skills I've built up in the past."

The move from a tight community of 87,000 to a city well over 650,000 has been exciting for her and given her new energy.

She calls herself the "contract queen" because most of her work has been on short-term contracts, running a year at a time. Her work experience includes working with the Canadian Mental Health Association, as well as the United Way of Peterborough and District. She has also worked with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which hands out lottery money to worthy causes in Ontario.

She also did a stint with the Kawartha World Issues Centre, acting as global education coordinator and, for three years, acted as chair of the Red Nose campaign in Peterborough, a fun charitable project that raises money for hospice work. She also worked as a communications coordinator and volunteer with the YMCA.

In Peterborough Allen also volunteered for the AIDS Resource Network and for the Rainbow Services Organization. She acted as a mentor for the Youth Health Council and spent more than ten years working on the committee planning International Women's Week.

With this background, which included a lot of volunteer work, she feels many of the issues she'll deal with in Winnipeg are similar to those she's been involved with over the last two decades.

"I did consider moving to Toronto but found



Kim Allen, Rainbow Resource Centre's newest coordinator

it too unfriendly and too big", she says. "Winnipeg is the ideal place for me to seek new challenges and meet new people. I'm very familiar with how boards work and I've been on both sides of the fence, both helping raise funds and, at the Trillium Foundation, working with those who give out funds."

For the Winnipeg centre she sees the lack of core funding as a major challenge. The centre has survived with many volunteers and a part-time coordinator, raising money through special events and getting government grants for very specific projects, such as the current Raisin' The Roof project, an effort to combat homophobia by taking theatre-based presentations into schools.

Allen says they had over 200 people turn out for the first performance of Raisin' The Roof and she's delighted to know funding has come through to ensure it goes into a second year.

Another challenge is finding better premises for the Rainbow Resource Centre, since the current space is cramped and not accessible to the physically challenged.

"I'm also looking at how we can better support an ageing GLBT population, as well as getting youth more involved in the centre," she says. "I'm a very social person and a great community networker, so I think we can do a better job there. Since I am a newcomer with fresh ideas, this may actually help us move forward."

She also says she's an incurable optimist, born with Gemini rising.

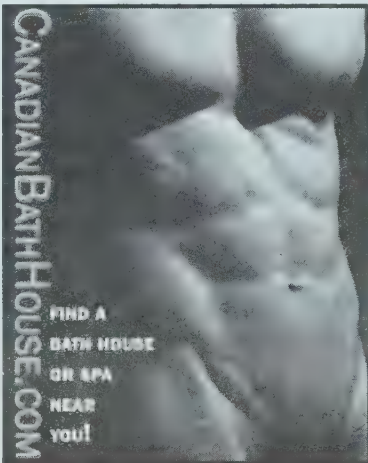
"I assume integrity in everyone, but of course you are sometimes disappointed", she says. "I also have seen many boards and I can smell a doomed board a mile away. The board running this centre has tons of integrity and I know they are all committed first and foremost to the longterm health of the centre, so I feel very comfortable with that."

Finding her dream job so quickly after arriving in Winnipeg—homeless and jobless—has been a blessing, but it gets better. Her partner Cheryl manages a women's shelter in Ottawa but plans to move to Winnipeg April 1st.

"We met at a conference on humour and healing thirteen years ago and we are finally getting together as partners in Winnipeg," she says. "Moving here has worked out much better than I could ever have hoped."

Her ingrained optimism about life has clearly paid rich dividends. ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Maclean's and The Financial Post. He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.



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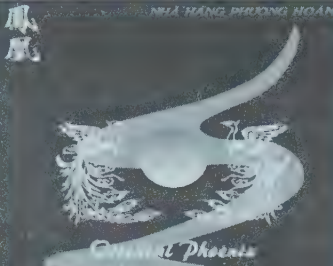
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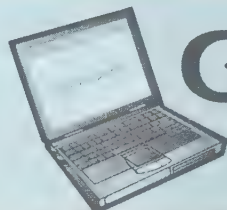
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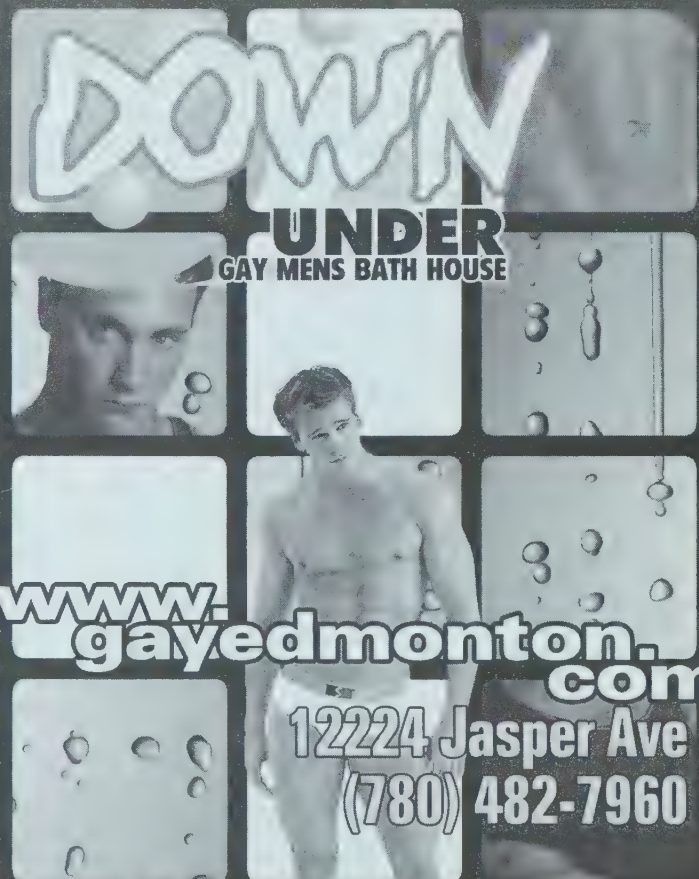
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Mercury will encourage us to play the fool this April as it weaves and bobs through the cosmos and deposits its little droppings on various heads. Expect your carefully ordered life to be disrupted with miscommunication. But take heart, hon; what gets muddled in April will turn around in May. Get ready to smell those flowers!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

A fool and their money are soon parted. That goes *double* for proud Rambos who try to manuevre high finance during April's month-long Mercury retrograde. The information you receive will be flawed or misinterpreted. Wait, wait, wait until after the thirtieth before you plunk down your hard-earned cash for a dollar and a dream. Fabulous baubles don't grow on trees you know.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

What adventures await you this April? Take my advice and stick to the tried and true while retro Mercury rampages through the zodiac and disrupts best laid plans. Social snafus will hogtie and brand you through the month. Of course, some folks like that sort of thing, but not the proud Bull. You must wield the lasso or there is no rodeo. Wait until the thirtieth, cowpoke.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Monsters in your closet will call the shots in mid-April because of retrograding Mercury. This means that your imagination will conjure scenarios that may never come to pass, or are over dramatized to say the least. This will be no time to cringe in your closet darling; it's time to put your best foot forward and step Out. That your timing was just fine will become clearer after the thirtieth.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Pink Crabs may wonder if they have lost their "schmoozability" when April's Mercury retrograde will cause miscommunication between friends. Through the month, carefully examine the way in which you treat pals lest there be misunderstandings of intent. Keep your sunny side up; by May the conversational cloud will clear and you'll become the spark of the social circuit once again.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUGUST 23)

It will be a rocky road to corporate Olympus, as retro Mercury tosses a few boulders in your path. Proud Lions deserve a chance at stardom but should give themselves ample planning time. By then end of the month, you'll be in a better frame of mind to finalize plans for a *coup d'état*. By then, however, will the spark still be there to do the deed or will you be one of those "live-and-let-live" types?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

You'll be primed and ready for a fabulous vacation this April but it may require extra planning. Queer Virgins will feel the impact of retro Mercury when guesthouse reservations in Key West are switched to a Friars Convention at a Holiday Inn in Omaha. It just ain't the same... All will be salvaged with a reconfirmation and carry-ons—but who will be in the seat next to you...?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Whispering words of lust in some charmer's ear may not have its intended effect in April with retro Mercury. Your pearls may be tossed before a *real* swine and either ignored or misinterpreted. Rather than slink away into the background, gay Libras should make a concerted effort to do rather than say. Actions speak louder and prouder than words anyway, compadre.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21)

It is believed that, in stable committed relationships, words need not be spoken. However, for proud Scorpors who are either in the throes of an unstable relationship or who are still on the prowl, retro Mercury works like a cosmic landmine. Don't quibble over trifles now; the cost is too high. Instead, roll with the waves and don't start your frantic paddle until you see friendlier shores.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21)

Are you talking to yourself at work? It may seem so through April as your instructions are ignored, purposely not followed or corrupted so that the end results are all wrong. Count to ten and take heart gay Archer; retro Mercury will wend its mystical course and dissipate not-soon-enough by the thirtieth. In the meantime, take a couple of coffee breaks and enjoy the silence.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps will have a case of creative block for most of April when retro Mercury throws a wrench into their most artistic projects. Forget about planning something stupendous—settle for something mediocre while you wait for your gay muse to rouse. Party hounds should check the invitation twice to be sure of the time and the venue. Gee, I was sure that it was a *pejama* party...

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Do you feel the urge to lay your festering family issues out on the table? Better wait until May, Aqueerius. Mercury will retrograde all through April and reduces the attention and appreciation that your concerns deserve. Your opinion will get lost in the general static, but that doesn't mean that you have to kowtow to the straight and narrow. Far from it: live your life and tell 'em about it *next* month.

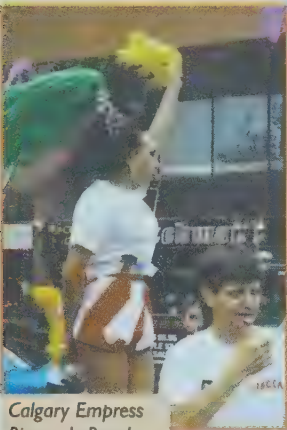
PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Overly emotional Guppies should become more reticent during the month-long Mercury retrograde. Things you say could be grossly misconstrued and blown out of proportion, and strong commentary should be shelved until after the thirtieth. Otherwise, you may find yourself hoisted on your own petard (please be sure to wear clean petards in case you meet someone special).

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Prepping for Pride 2004

By James Fothergill and Liane Cross, *Pride Calgary Committee*



Calgary Empress Bianca LaBouche giving her all for Pride

way to 12 Street SW. We are looking forward to having the best and most colourful parade ever; it will be the place to be, so be sure to get a great seat if you're not participating, as they'll go fast!

The Pride Parade is just the start of the action-packed day of celebration. The *Outlooks* Street Festival will kick into high gear right after the Pride Parade in a fabulous new location, Tomkins Park, on 17 Avenue SW between 7 and 8 Street SW. There will be all kinds of entertainment, lots to eat and drink, and plenty of shopping! This year's Street Festival promises to have everything for everyone, so come on out and show your pride.

Throughout the week, there will be many things to do, a host of activities to show our diversity and Pride. For more info on our Pride celebrations, and others across Canada, see the *Outlooks National Pride Guide* included in the June edition of the magazine.



Members of the Calgary Eagle contingent "harnessing" community spirit in the 2003 parade

need lots of volunteers, from database work and organization of Parade entries to beer garden security and fundraising efforts. This year, we will also need help in putting up Pride flags everywhere, so if you'd like to be a part of creating your Pride Week Celebrations, call Pride Calgary at (403) 262-3410 or visit our official website at www.pridecalgary.ca

We look forward to seeing the community out and about more than ever before! ▼

What an exciting year it has been. The Fourteenth Annual Pride Week is just over two months away, starting on June 6 with the Parade and Street Festival, and continuing through the week to wrap up with the Pride Dance on June 12.

The entirely new Board of Directors has been busy creating a spectacular week for all to enjoy. It is hard to believe all the exciting new things that we have been working hard to put into place are almost ready!

This year, with the help of *Outlooks*, we have fostered a relationship with the Uptown 17 Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ). Because of this new relationship, we have been able to secure a new and exciting location for both the Parade and Street Festival. The Parade will be a great opportunity to see all the faces of our community. The route will start on 2nd Street SW and continue down 17 Avenue SW all the way to 12 Street SW. We are looking forward to having the best and



Organizers hope that this year's Pride will be a banner year

To wrap up the celebrations of the week, join us at the event of all events, the Pride Dance, which will take place on June 12. Over 2,000 people will dance the night away to conclude a week of fabulous celebrations. The amazing new location, Hall D at the Roundup Centre in Stampede Park, will have an incredible sound and light show that will ensure this will be the event to attend...everyone will be there!

So, after reading what we have been planning, do you want to be a part of creating this series of fantastic events? We do need lots of volunteers, from database work and organization of Parade entries to beer garden security and fundraising efforts. This year, we will also need help in putting up Pride flags everywhere, so if you'd like to be a part of creating your Pride Week Celebrations, call



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by Nicole Zylstra

MAY 15 / JUNE 13, 2004

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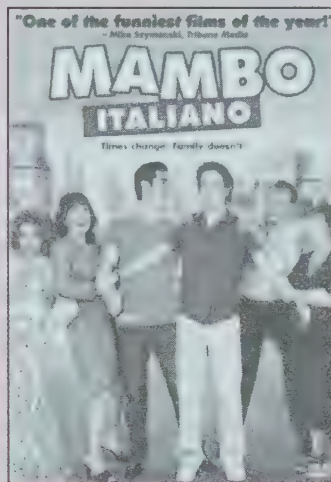


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OUTLOOKS Q reviews

Film

By Dale Smith



Director: Emile Gaudreault
From: Columbia Tristar Home Video

Running Time: 88 minutes

Release Date: 2003

Following the huge success of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the opportunity for mainstream audiences to enjoy *Mambo Italiano*, a small Canadian film, suddenly appeared. After all, the distributors thought it had all of the elements that made Nia Vardalos' film great—a romantic comedy about someone struggling with their ethnic background with humorous results—except that *Mambo Italiano* is less of a romantic comedy and would be more suitably subtitled *My Big Fat Italian Closet*. Don't get me wrong: the film is very funny, but the romantic aspect is hardly the centre of the plot.

Angelo (Luke Kirby) is approaching thirty and still lives with his parents Gino and Maria (Paul Sorvino and Ginette Reno) in Montréal's close-knit Italian community. He was that kid who the entire high school called "fag", and he suffered greatly for it. The worst blow was when his best friend Nino abandoned him rather than risk being associated with "the fag". When Angelo decides to start making some changes in his life and moves out on his own, he runs into Nino (Peter Miller) again and finds his old friend is now a cop—and a hottie. The two quickly fall in love and Nino moves in with him.

At first, nobody knows about the pair until Angelo's sister Anna (Claudia Ferri) accidentally walks in on them one day and Angelo starts thinking about coming out.

Nino is dead set against the idea, preferring to give the illusion of that two are just roommates who still date "nice Italian girls" on occasion. And when Angelo does tell his parents, they hit full Italian melodrama. It isn't long before Nino's mother Lina (Mary Walsh) is brought into the picture. Convinced that her son is going through a phase, Lina begins to scheme.

Meanwhile, Nino feels increased pressure to start looking like he's a regular straight guy and when big-haired Pina (Sophie Lorain) arrives on the scene, his relationship with Angelo quickly breaks down. Abandoned by his lover and probably his family as well, Angelo starts looking to rebuild his identity between both the Italian and gay communities, undertaking a journey of self.

Where this movie's true strength lies is the line between the characters' identities. Closet-loving Nino once called Angelo a self-hating Italian, though Nino himself had huge issues with his internalized homophobia. Nino's own love for his Italian culture (and a good share of guilt), however, led him to turn on his gay identity and give a preference for the closeted double-life. This is something else that the film effectively shines a light onto that one doesn't often see in mainstream cinema, where most closeted characters are deranged or pathetic. While Nino has a certain amount of pathos, he's not an unlikable character.

Acceptance quickly becomes the issue: for Angelo to accept his own duelling identities, for his family to accept him and for him to accept Nino's choices. The film was very well written, well acted and it was incredibly funny. The DVD also contains a couple of good deleted scenes and a poignant extended version of the film's most dramatic and emotional scene. Forget the critics who blasted the film because they missed the point while expecting a romantic comedy—the film is an extremely good example of gay cinema done well, where it's the character's journey and not the relationship that is at the heart of things. ▼

Favourite Lines:

Lina: "You want cannelloni, come with me. You want disgusting mortal sin activity, you stay here."

or

Pina: "Me, I can convert anybody. Give me an hour in the gay village and there's not going to be a gay village no more."

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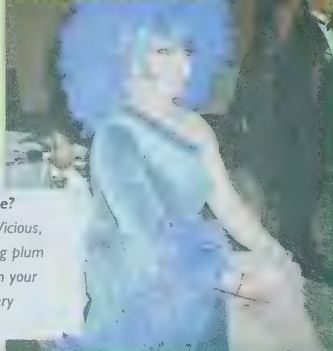


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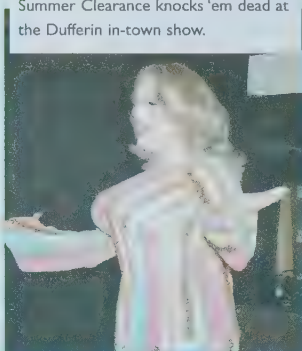
CORONATION 2004 CITYWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Am I Blue?

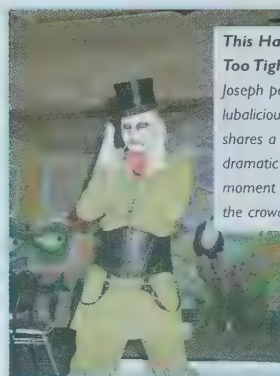
No, Plum Vicious, just looking plum delicious in your cobalt finery



Badda-bing, Badda-Boobs
Who knew that a Missoni stripe could make headlights glow so... er, brightly. Summer Clearance knocks 'em dead at the Dufferin in-town show.



This Hat's Too Tight!
Joseph penny lubalicious shares a dramatic moment with the crowd.



I'm Hitting It! I'm Hitting It!
Plum Vicious raises the Odyssey's roof at the out-of-town show.



I Taught Him Everything He Knows About Making a Crown Fit Better...

Past Vancouver Emperor Bruce (left) with Joseph penny lubalicious, of Halifax, at Coronation 2004



Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos By: Barry Piersdorff.



True Northe

Ted Northe, Empress 1 of Canada, looking every inch a lady at the Dufferin's Ball Fever party.

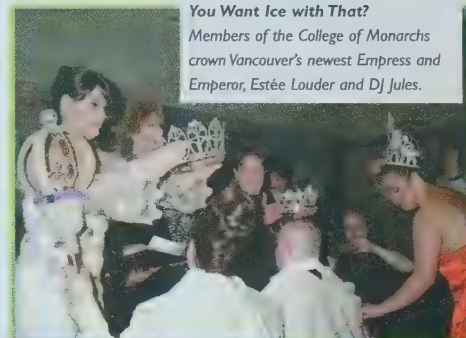


The Bloom is On the Rose

Imelda Mae and Ray present Vancouver Centre MP Dr. Hedy Fry—looking hot in a bias-cut pink and red gown—with the Dogwood Monarchist Society's Citizen of the Year award

You Want Ice with That?

Members of the College of Monarchs crown Vancouver's newest Empress and Emperor, Estée Louder and DJ Jules.



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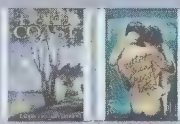
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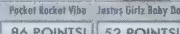
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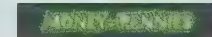


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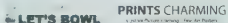
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COVER STORY

The ball's in Canada's court

By Tyler Hopson



"Since the beginning of time!" exclaim Rob Capar and Justin Mui in unison at a pub in Vancouver's gay village.

They're not, as one might believe, discussing Cher's lengthy career in the music business. They're referring instead to their own involvement with the Vancouver Gay Volleyball

Association (VGVA); it's been thirteen years for Capar and eleven for Mui. They may as well be talking about the lengthy process involved in hosting North America's annual gay volleyball tournament, set to take place in Vancouver at the end of May.

Planning for the tournament began long before Vancouver was named the host at last year's event in New Orleans. But it's not as though Capar and Mui haven't enjoyed the long hours of planning and strategy-building. "I love volleyball, volleyball is my life," says Mui, who is currently Vice-Chair and Director of Sponsorship and Marketing for VGVA.

One of the biggest challenges has simply been location. It's not as though people aren't interested in a city as beautiful as Vancouver, but it is the first time the tournament has been hosted outside the USA—something of a disadvantage for organizers.

"We just don't have the same resources as in the states," says Capar, who's this year's VGVA Treasurer. He says American teams receive more subsidies for sports programs and have more venues open to them, not to mention that everything from t-shirts to medals is less expensive down south.

Organizers of the Vancouver event also have to ship equipment for twenty-eight volleyball courts all the way from Texas to B.C. Place Stadium. Add to that the cost of paying for a representative to accompany the equipment and stay in Vancouver for the duration of the tournament and things aren't exactly cheap. Mui says that the larger number of hotels and conference centres in American cities cause them to engage in fierce competition for events such as this one. In Vancouver, where only two or three hotels have ballrooms large enough for 1,000 or more guests, this just isn't the case.

Despite these challenges, Mui says the North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA), was very supportive of Vancouver being awarded the games. The organization decides on the host city based on bids submitted by interested applicants. The tournament is the largest gay sporting event in Vancouver since the Gay Games were held in 1990.

"You don't expect to make money and you hope not to lose money," says Capar of the financial logic behind the tournament. "You do it for the status and honour for your

city and your group."

Finding corporate sponsorship hasn't been easy, either, and organizers are still in need of some \$30,000 from corporate sponsors in order to host the conference. Unlike Vancouver's annual Pride events, where the audience is mainly Canadian, most of the participants in this tournament will be American. Accordingly, the majority of Canadian companies that organizers have approached don't see sponsorship as being worth their money.

"We're still looking for substantial sponsorship," says Capar. To date only VanCity Credit Union and Interactive Male have been confirmed as corporate sponsors for the event. However, organizers hope to make up for the rest during an upcoming local sponsorship drive.

Of course, no event of this nature would be possible without the commitment of hardworking men and women willing to work without pay, and approximately 200 volunteers are needed to make the tournament a success. Registration, scorekeeping, crowd control, organization of the award ceremony and a long list of other things will all depend on volunteer manpower, says Mui.

Only a small number of volunteers were signed up as of mid-March, but Capar remains optimistic and says VGVA members tend to develop long-lasting relationships with the organization. "Volleyball attracts a certain kind of person.... They really enjoy it and they come back year after year," he stresses. Of VGVA itself, Capar says it's a strong, well-structured organization. "That's what makes it fun to be a part of."

Mui expects that most volunteers will sign up closer to the actual tournament date, but points out that an online volunteer registration form can be found on the tournament's website.

While most of the players in the tournament will be American, teams from Winnipeg, Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary are also scheduled to make the journey to Vancouver. In total, more than 1,000 people will take part in the five-day event, something Mui and Capar say will be good for the local economy in terms of spin-off revenue. Mui says such a large number of newcomers to Vancouver will most likely be out shopping and sightseeing when not

on the courts.

"Tourism B.C. also wants the event," Capar adds. "They've helped a lot with resources, information, and they even helped with the bid." He feels says the event will bring people to Vancouver that would not likely come to the city otherwise. "It's a chance to showcase our city and our gay village."

"Plus," says Mui with a laugh, "the single players can check out Vancouver's boys!" ▼

Tyler Hopson is a freelance writer and graduate student based in Vancouver.



Net gains: Vancouver is the first Canadian city to host North America's annual gay volleyball tournament

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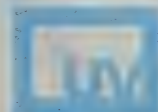
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By Pat Johnson

Be my mentor? A very cool project is being undertaken in Vancouver, to bring GLBT issues to the challenges confronting young people charting their life's course. Two Randys—Keats and Atkinson—are creating Live Out Loud, an organization

whose aim is to provide events where GLBT youth can hear from and speak to accomplished people in various fields as a way to assist them in selecting a career and a path in life. The idea is to celebrate the diversity in the community, increase the visibility of role models and to increase the exchange of information between young GLBT people and those more experienced in their life and career. This is a brilliant plan. More info: www.members.shaw.ca/randyk/LOL/index.html

Suckle, you pig! On April 18, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Oasis celebrates its anniversary with a "traditional suckling pig." Now that sounds like fun.

Show your inner star... The third annual fundraiser for The Centre takes place April 3 at the Coast Plaza. The 8 p.m. shindig offers a night of live entertainment. Tix for Stardom—Our Community Shines are available at Little Sister's and at the door. \$30 advance/\$35 door. No suckling pigs.

Liberate me! Sexual liberation is being explored as part of the "Sexologist in the City" series presented by Gayway. On April 6, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., organizers will lead a conversation about the effect of sexual liberation on our lives. How you feel about your sexual orientation affects your sex life—what does homosexuality mean to you? What are the myths we need to constantly challenge? Organizers invite you to come share your expertise. Call (604) 682-3900 to register for this free program.

They really like us...? News flash: people like to visit Vancouver. Gay ones especially. Our city has been named one of the Top 10 "up and coming" gay travel destinations by *Out and About* magazine. That should square nicely with the big International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) annual convention that will take place in the city in May. This is one of the biggest, most significant gay conventions and could spell a new era in Vancouver's place on the gay travel circuit.

Swing out sisters! Now that we're all getting back into the fitness regime after a long winter's hibernation (we are, aren't we?) Team Vancouver is loosening up for the new season with a fundraising Spring Swing, featuring the Bruce James Orchestra at the west End Community Centre, April 24, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tix are \$20 and available (natch) at Little Sister's. Costumes are encouraged for what the folks describe as a "big brass, big intensity" blast, with the band that made Chicago, The Party such a swingin' success. More info can be found at their official site, located at: www.teamvancouver.net

Play with balls? And speaking of the pre-season stretching, Out for Kicks, Vancouver's popular GLBT soccer players, are having their annual registration night at the Fountainhead, April 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The season itself runs mid-April until November. Superstars and novices of any gender and ability welcome. Wanna know more? Visit www.outforkicks.ca

I love Irshad Dashed over to UBC March 5 to see the queer wunderkind Irshad Manji. Alas, viewers in most parts of the country don't get to watch her regular program, which appears on TV Ontario, but the Richmond, B.C.-raised activist/author is about to become an international celeb with the American and European publication of her Canadian bestseller *The Trouble with Islam*. Her engaging, chatty book challenges feminists, gays, lesbians and supporters of diversity to oppose fundamentalism everywhere, especially fundamentalist Islam. All of this doesn't sit well with some activists on campus, some of whom gave Manji a rough ride. But, if you've seen this power-dyke in action, you know she can give every bit as good as she gets. If you've never heard her name before, be forewarned: she's about to become a megastar. Her articulate tongue is driven by a whip-smart brain. And, suffice to say, when she's speaking to a room full of lesbians, there's not a dry seat in the house. Smart and sexy—look out world.

Bingo! Don't forget: ever the trouper, Joan-E's still doing gay bingo at the Odyssey every Tuesday night, bless 'er. Proceeds of her good work go to Loving Spoonful, which does good work of its own, dontcha know.

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Underpinnings of glamour

by David Greenberg

Movies, fashion and celebrities; for many this is the holy trinity. Despite my lack of manual dexterity and my nearly pathological need to be the centre of attention, I often thought that costuming could be a possible dream career for me. Kurtis Reeves, on the other hand, has found his ideal occupation creating and prepping costumes here in Hollywood North. He has worked with everyone from Oscar winner Halle Berry to reality TV princess Kelly Osbourne, from Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds to local performer Joan-E. I sat down with Kurtis recently to get a glimpse into his profession while vainly digging for a little celebrity dirt.

Outlooks: Just recently, you were the prep costumer for *Catwoman*, starring Miss Halle Berry, correct?

Reeves: Yes. And I can't talk about that until the movie is released.

Outlooks: Not at all?

Reeves: Discretion is a very important part of my job.

Outlooks: We had to meet up rather late this evening because you were on-set. What are you currently working on?

Reeves: A TV pilot for Disney called *Doing It* starring Kelly Osbourne and Sean Ferris.

It's about teenagers and sex.

Outlooks: And this is Disney? They've come a long way from *Snow White*. Were you at The Marble Arch this past weekend for Kelly Osbourne's dancing extravaganza?

Reeves: I wasn't. I went home to sleep.

Outlooks: How did you get started in the business?

Reeves: Kind of accidentally. I started as the typical "hair fag". I couldn't stand the people at beauty school and I hated salon politics so I left to attend design school at Helen Lefebvre here in Vancouver. My stepfather had been a tailor in Merritt, so I had been around sewing machines and fabrics my entire life. I started out doing piecework in the theatre. I was working retail by day and would then run to David Chipman's studio and pick up a package and go home and sew, sometimes all night.

Outlooks: Sounds like a sweatshop.

Reeves: I don't know if that's true, but it was extremely difficult to balance my future career and the job that paid the rent. But it was necessary. I built up my portfolio and began to meet people in the industry.

Outlooks: I assume that your portfolio consisted of work you had done in theatre and independent films?

Reeves: Actually, when I was hired by the Vancouver Opera my portfolio consisted of the piecework I had done to date and my own designs. They must have thought it impressive enough because the wardrobe mistress hired me on. I lucked out.

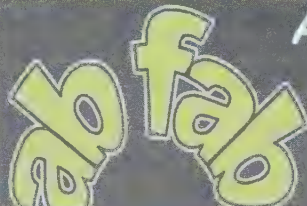
Outlooks: How did you even get in touch with the Vancouver Opera?

Reeves: I basically blanketed Canada and the UK with my resume. If there was a costuming department in the Commonwealth, they got my fax. I worked with the opera for a while and then, about eight

continued opposite



Connie and Carla Do L.A. star Nia Vardalos gettin' a little sugar from costumer Kurtis Reeves



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from previous

years ago, [movie costumer] Trish Keating took me under her wing and taught me the IATSE way of doing things.

Outlooks: Excuse me, the what?

Reeves: IATSE is the motion picture technicians union. Like all professions, there are little secrets... I worked for Trish and ran her locker for a year until I got my first film job.

Outlooks: What was that?

Reeves: A very independent film called *Miss Bear*. I was doing two jobs on set and working my ass off, learning the entire time. I built up my reputation on mostly low-budget, non-union independent films. I got my union card working on *The 13th Warrior*.

Outlooks: That sounds familiar, who...

Reeves: Antonio Banderas...

Outlooks: Right! That was a terrible movie. Great costumes, though!

Reeves: I lucked out again with that one. They went through several costume designers before they even started filming, so myself and about 100 other costumers got union cards by working around the clock to get the wardrobe finished before shooting began.

Outlooks: So you went from a sweatshop to costume boot camp.

Reeves: I guess so. It was hard going but it was worth it in the end because I got that union card.

Outlooks: Is it the same Catch-22 that you have with ACTRA or SAG...you can't work until you have your card and you can't get your card without getting work?

Reeves: Pretty much. Once I was in the union, I made the leap to television and major motion pictures. I started working on *The Chris Isaak Show*.

Outlooks: I've heard that he is a very... rugged man. What was it like to work for him?

Reeves: I miss him now in a strange way. He's really into surfing and boxing. So one day he asks me out of the blue if I would like him to teach me how to box. I told him that I would do just fine defending myself with a handbag, thank you. I don't think he knew quite how to take that.

Outlooks: I have never watched an entire episode of *The Chris Isaak Show*, but I do know about the special guests on each episode. Who was the most memorable?

Reeves: Um...Gwen Stephani's husband—

Outlooks: Gavin Rossdale?

Reeves: Yes. He was very polite and extremely easy to dress.

Outlooks: I'm sure he was...

Reeves: And Cyndi Lauper. Actually, we did not really get along on the first day; she was all business and very curt with me. The next day, we shared a bag of chips.

Outlooks: What kind?

Reeves: Ketchup. Here I was doing something so mundane with an icon from my childhood. It was my last day at *Chris Isaak* and a great way to leave. I left before the end of the series because I got dragged away by *Connie and Carla* Do LA. as a set supervisor.

Outlooks: The drag movie starring Nia Vardalos, Toni Colette and Robert Kaiser [AKA Joan-E]?

Reeves: That would be the one.

Outlooks: What was it like working on that film?

Reeves: Most of the time was spent on our knees...

Outlooks: Really?

Reeves: Doing up corsets. Corsets, costumes, showtunes, Debbie Reynolds...it's a very gay movie.

Outlooks: It seemed like every queen in town was working on that project at some point.

Reeves: Yeah, I think we had just about everyone on set. It was great working with local entertainers and having them see my world for a change instead of stumbling through their world after one drink too many.

Outlooks: What has been your most challenging costuming feat?

Reeves: Well, it would have to be a special effect for *The Chris Isaak Show*. In a particular episode, one of the main characters and a Christian Youth Band had to run naked down a hotel hallway with flaming toilet paper stuck up their asses. So, in conjunction with the special effects department, we fashioned a sort of cock-ring that had a wire that protruded behind. Onto that wire was attached toilet paper that was set alight. Then these young actors would run, bare butt, down the hallway. That was a great day.

Outlooks: Gavin Rossdale, naked teens, Cyndi Lauper, Catwoman, I am extremely jealous.

Reeves: It's a living. It's not all glitz and glamour—anyone who thinks that this job consists of hanging out with celebrities and acting fabulous won't make it very far. It's hard work.

Outlooks: What would you say to someone who wanted to break into your world? What advice would you give?

Reeves: You have to be persistent. You're going to hear "No" a lot. There's a lot of rejection, so you have to have a great deal of confidence in yourself as well. Personality is also very important, because on any given day you will have to deal with Teamsters, producers, the talent...

Outlooks: Whether they be talented or not...

Reeves: Your words, not mine! Most of all, you need to keep your head high and be positive. Meet as many people in the industry as you can.

Outlooks: But where would someone get their start?

Reeves: Well, this profession is very word-of-mouth and who you know. Start volunteering for student films, commercials and theatre productions. Start meeting people. You never know where a paying gig might come from, or from whom.

Outlooks: And, I guess, practice-practice-practice?

Reeves: Not really. You never really know what you'll be asked to do or what to expect on a job, so how can you practice?

Outlooks: And the sewing thing?

Reeves: You had better be damned good!

Outlooks: What are the downsides of the profession?

Reeves: Well, it wreaks havoc on your social life; you can be cloistered away from friends and family for weeks or months at a time, although what they say about adopting the cast and crew as a second family is true. You substitute your loved ones for these complete strangers that you get to know extremely intimately over the course of a shoot. It seems silly to say this, but it's almost like being orphaned every month... I think you need to be slightly crazy to really succeed in this business. ▼

Steven Schelling has never been able to sew. He lives in Vancouver.



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Spring fever remedies

By Lincoln Phillip

After a long dark winter, the increase in daylight stimulates our hypothalamus and our pituitary gland starts secreting a different blend of hormones, one that increases the level of male testosterone and affects our reproductive organs. In other words, at springtime the human male becomes damn horny!

But, like most male species in the animal kingdom, there are certain rituals of beautification that must be practiced before sacking our mate. A change in haircut or colour, or perhaps a Brazilian wax to shed the winter fur will be part of your beauty regime; however, there is nothing more attractive than a well-dressed man.

Whether you plan to pursue or be pursued, or simply want to look divine for your partner, knowing what is in for spring 2004 is essential in updating your look and boosting your level of attractiveness from standard to supreme!

I must confess that I have had spring fever since late-February, and have been purging old clothes to make room for the latest and greatest styles. The fever's spell had me spending money on clothing I could not wear for nearly two months, but I get excited each time I think of the possible looks that I can put together when the mercury finally exceeds 15° Celsius!

To see if my pre-spring indulgences were justified, I turned to David Goldman, of

Vancouver's famous men's boutique Boy's Co, whose fashion expertise confirmed that my wardrobe updates were worth every penny...

Outlooks: What are the essential pieces men should add to their spring wardrobes?

Goldman: Vintage look t-shirts; slim twill pants; flight pants.

Outlooks: What should guys *not* be wearing this spring season?

Goldman: Trucker hats (but they're still popular)

Outlooks: Three-quarter length shorts, also known as Capris—is it time to burn them?

Goldman: No! They are still hot.

Outlooks: What is the silhouette for spring, body conscious or loose?

Goldman: Either, but we like fitted tops over low rise bottoms.

Outlooks: What is the hottest accessory for spring?

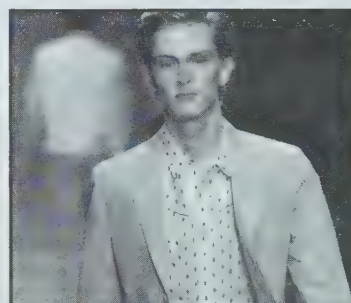
Goldman: Bulky bracelets, terry wristbands.

Outlooks: What are the hottest labels for spring?

Goldman: G-Star jeans & sportswear; True Religion jeans; Psycho Cowboy Brand anything.

Now that you know what to buy for the season, the next step in the "renovation ritual" is knowing how to maximize these pieces according to the trends of the moment. To share my spring fever with you, as well as provide some visual stimulation, I have broken them down according to male sexual archetypes.

THE RUGGED COWBOY



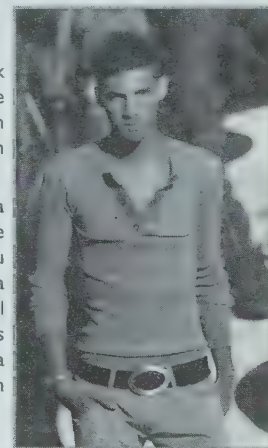
Not since the era of the Village People has the cowboy been seen as chic in the world of fashion. We can thank Tom Ford, of Gucci, for turning to his Texan roots and updating the sexy mystique of the square-jawed Lone Star.

How to wear the look: An authentic western shirt with pearl snap buttons or its fashion-inspired version by denim lines such as Psycho Cowboy and G-Star, paired with low-rise, boot-cut, slim-fit jeans. Accessorize with a chunky bracelet in metal or leather and, of course, pointy shoes or cowboy boots. If you dare to take it up a notch, this season's other must-have is a Henley shirt, worn under a cowboy shirt with a silk scarf around the neck (to add flair to the machismo of the cowboy) and a leather blazer to take the look from hick to slick.

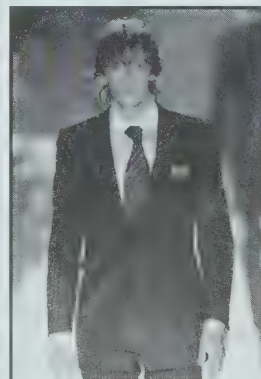
THE BOY NEXT DOOR

With wholesome appeal and Ivy League savvy, this look is a seasonal classic, modernized for the class of 2004. The oversized polo shirts and baggy chinos are replaced with a more body-conscious silhouette that accentuates a "gym class" physique.

How to wear the look: A slim-cut polo shirt with a striped collar and sleeve, with slim twill pants, or loose denim pants and "old school" sneakers by any brand. You can also channel Boris Becker in a pair of short shorts, a polo and a cardigan. Accessorize with the terry towel wristband and make sure you score higher than love this season. Capris combined with a tight vintage tee and a shrunken denim jacket offer a funky update for the fashion confident.



THE SUIT



Whether he is a junior at the firm or a silver fox, some men know how to flaunt their sex appeal under all those layers of cloth. This season, the cut of the suit is still slim. Look for plain front, low-rise trousers. White, tan and pinstripe suits of various widths and colours say "power" for spring. The main direction of fashion is casual separates, which can be easily achieved with a suit.

How to wear the look: For work or going out, do the jacket and pants with a striped French cuffed shirt, or this season's other trend of the moment, a pink dress shirt; both look amazing with a jacket in any colour. For more casual days, team a cotton blazer (in tan or white) with a pair of jeans and a vintage T-shirt and some Adidas and you are good to go!

continued opposite

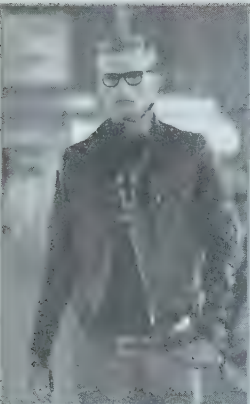
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from previous

THE LEATHER GUY

No matter what temperature, a touch of leather will always add an edge to any outfit. Whether it's a paper-thin bomber, motocross styling or a blazer, these lambskins will provide you with enough pleasure—they look flawless with everything from a predictable pair of slim-fitting jeans to loose linen pants

THE BEEFCAKE

Perhaps the most desired of them all is the guy with the rock-hard physique; you know, the ones who can actually remove their shirt in public and not offend anyone. But you don't have to go to this extreme to look sexy while revealing



some skin. Let's face it, the majority does not have the body of Fredrik Ljungberg, but we do have the common sense to know that the right cut in a tank top or sleeveless tee will hide some of our sins and reveal our virtuous parts.

How to wear this look: Athlete-inspired pieces can be worn with almost everything, and can be taken from casual with a pair of shorts to a dressier statement with a sleeveless collared shirt and low-rise pants. Accessorize those wrists with a bulky bracelet in leather or heavy linked gold or silver. ▼

Lincoln Phillip is a writer in pursuit of promoting those who bring beauty into the world. He contributes style-related topics to many magazines, and collaborates with Calgary's leading design firms. This style maven hopes to one day have lunch with Anna Wintour.

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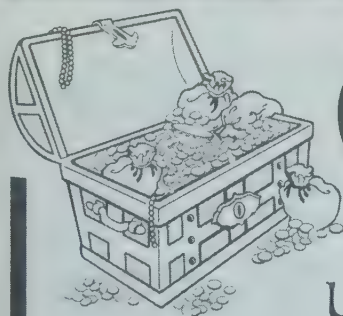
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April 3

Stardom

The annual Fundraiser for the Vancouver Gay & Lesbian Centre to be held at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites. For more info visit www.stardom2004.com

April 1-12

Tinseltown

At the Ayden Gallery - an art exhibit of James Picard will be displayed alongside a silent auction to benefit A loving Spoonful.

April 24

Top Of The World Productions - Elevate

At the Commodore Ballroom. Tickets \$50 in advance \$60 at the door - partial proceeds to benefit The Dr. Peter Centre.

Monies Raised Last Month:

The Fountainhead Pub in Vancouver is proud to announce that they have presented McLaren Housing Society with a cheque for **\$873.50** - proceeds to date from the ongoing "Fountainhead Charity Tap" and **\$987.00** to A Loving Spoonful from their December "Kokanee Pint" fundraiser.

The Royal Bank in Vancouver is pleased to announce their donations to Friends For Life in the amount of **\$8,000**, Aids Vancouver / Vancouver Aids Society in the amount of **\$5,500**, The Centre in the amount of **\$5,000** and A Loving Spoonful in the amount of **\$5,000** for a grand total of **\$23,500**.

Thanks to the Vancouver Community for your support!

To pre-promote your fundraiser or report on monies raised in the next issue of *Outlooks Vancouver* email: main@outlooks.ca or fax info toll free to 1-877-885-6657

This Monthly Community Feature Brought to you by:



Rough 'n' ready Rogues

By Lino DiNallo

Not every gay man enjoys figure skating. Nor does every gay man identify with the cast of *Queer Eye* when they scoff at a hairy chest or the lack of toiletries in a man's medicine cabinet. There are those of us who revel in masculinity and cherish opportunities to indulge in frat-boy hijinks and old-fashioned male bonding. We prefer "rough and tough" sports to triple-lutzes and are more inclined to gash an eyebrow on the field than to pluck it to perfection. Readers who relate more to the latter will probably be big fans of Vancouver's Rogues Rugby Club.

The Rogues have been in Vancouver for just under two years now. An anomaly in Canada, they are the only team to explicitly recruit visible and sexual minorities, a mandate that includes gay men. Other, traditionally under-represented minorities on this team include Asian, East Indian, Polynesian and Hispanic men. Team President Dinuka Samara says the gay community has quickly and warmly embraced the Rogues, and their team's roster now boasts nearly forty members as they continue to grow.

The Rogues currently play in the third, and most recreational, division of the Vancouver Rugby Union. If all goes well, Samara hopes the team will advance to the VRU's second division in another two years. However, they aren't wasting any time aiming for the top: the boys are heading across the pond for this year's Bingham Cup (www.binghamcup.com) in London, England. (For rugby trivia hounds, rugby was developed here at England's historic Rugby School in the nineteenth century.)

Bingham Cup is the ultimate destination for gay-friendly rugby teams. Rogues' Vice President, Ian Gibson, is actually a member of the International rugby body helping to organize the event. Here they'll face-off against blokes from the United Kingdom, Scotland, Ireland, mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and several American cities.

To get in shape, the team meets for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Games are held Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from September through November, as well as February through April. By the end of a typical game, the players have run an impressive four kilometers.

If you've never played the game but are intrigued by the challenge, this is a great team to join, as the Rogues are committed to nurturing novice players. The intent is to quickly whip newcomers into shape even if they get pummeled repeatedly in the process. New Player Orientations are held every month throughout the summer, with the next one planned for Saturday, April 17th. As of press time, details had not been confirmed but should be available on the team's website, located at www.roguesrugby.ca.

Unlike many sports, all it takes to get started is a decent rugby jersey. A direct quote from their site defines it as "not one of those trendier-than-thou versions from Abercrombie & Fitch". Wow—along with being nurturing and financially sensible, these guys are part of a grassroots anti-globalization effort, too!

My first encounter with the team was this past winter at (ahem) Numbers. I'd run into an acquaintance I fancied and struck up a casual conversation with ulterior motives; through our discussion, I learned he was there with his rugby-playing comrades.

Although testosterone and musk hung heavily in the air, what struck me most about the team was their sparkling level of camaraderie and complete lack of pretense—not just amongst themselves but also with their visiting opponents from Seattle. This really was simply a fun bunch of guys out for a good time on the field, and maybe some Bertuzzi-inspired ass whooping. But, I repeat, this team does welcome novices.

If only my high school had sponsored a rugby team like Rogues, years of teen anguish could have been washed away. As it happens, I was "the fat kid" who threw like a girl. When it came to team sports I was inevitably among the last players chosen. With an occasional flip of my mullet's mud-flaps for melodramatic effect, I'd hug my shoulders to hide my man-boobies and pray that somebody would pick me before Warren or Sandra.

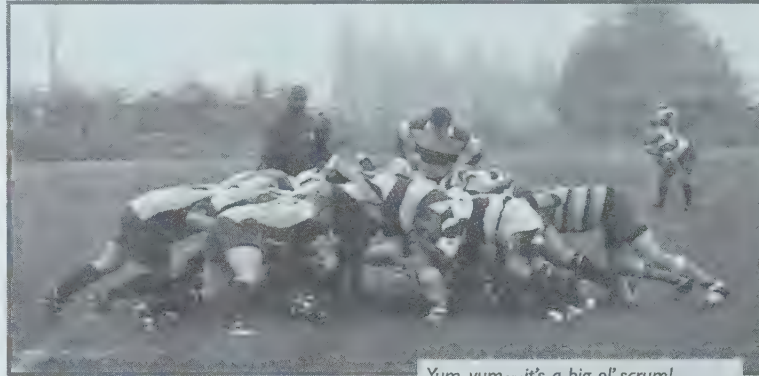
In describing what the Rogues look for in aspiring players, I can now cite myself as an example. Things have improved immensely since high school. I am now blessed with the proverbial rugby player's build: broad-shoulders, a barrel-chest and a centre of gravity low enough to the ground that any buffoon who dares shove me would be surprised to find I don't tip easily. Unfortunately, I still throw like a girl.

Players on the team range in age from nineteen to forty. Boiled down, the average age is twenty-six. Ironically, even though the game reeks of "diesel dyke", there is currently no women's team. However, one is in the works and the Rogues hope it will be in place by the 2004/05 season. Plans are in the works to launch men's junior (under nineteen) and over-forty leagues in future, as well.

If you don't see yourself as a "hooker"—or assuming any other position on the Rogues' team—you can still lend them your support. In the past they've hosted some legendary tea dances at Balthazar, but in lieu of pep rallies or another tea dance, Samara says some summer beach parties are in the works—hello Annette Funicello! With West Enders' proclivity to linger by the water until sunset, I'm sure these will be a hit.

So if your earliest memories, like mine, were spent shopping for clothes in the "husky" section, or if puberty saw you blossom into a brick, come on down to strut your stuff. If not, we'll see you on the beach. ▼

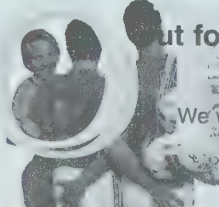
Lino DiNallo is a Vancouver-raised, Toronto-trained writer with a London-based advertising agency. In his spare time, he enjoys skipping rope for the glory of God.



Yum, yum—it's a big ol' scrum!
Getting down to business on the field

"husky" section, or if puberty saw you blossom into a brick, come on down to strut your stuff. If not, we'll see you on the beach. ▼

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(From left) Stephen,
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A bevy of bellies at
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Claiming Assets?

Barry gives the crowd a peek of
his "credentials" as Michael and
John look on.

UNISON ST. ANDREW'S WESLEY CHURCH

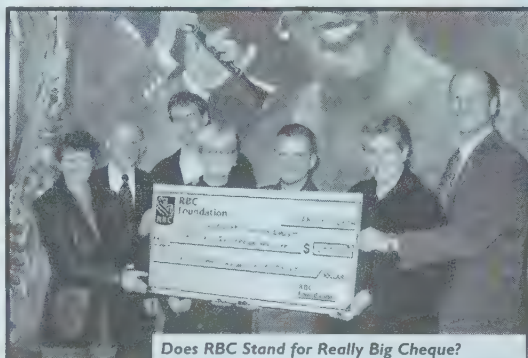


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Choirs of all kinds partook in the Unison
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A pair of buff bods at the L'Amour event.



I Like Mic

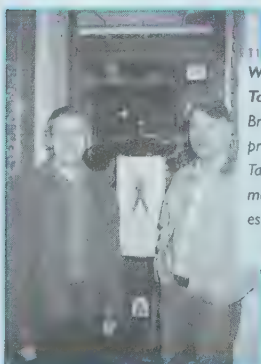
Pro-on-the-go, Robert Kaiser, gives
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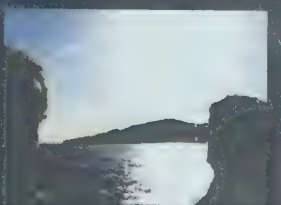
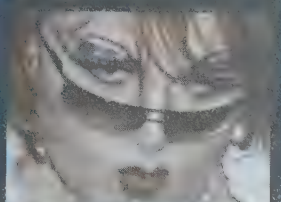


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DON'T YOU WISH?



Sullivan enjoys swimming, playing baseball and squash, and is the captain of his volleyball team. When he's not involved in athletic pursuits, he loves both dining out and cooking at home.



Sullivan

Photos by Graham Major

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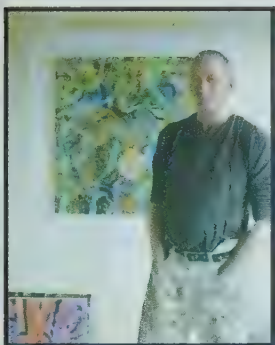
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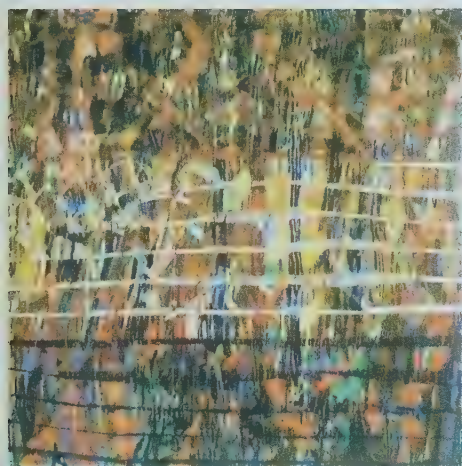
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Steven Fraser Jones grew up in Vancouver in a family of flourishing artists, and has returned to his hometown after living in New York for twenty-five years. Prior to his stint in the Big Apple, Mr. Jones worked and studied internationally in a variety of media, from music composition and set design to sculpture and video direction. He cites both the Mannerists and New York's Abstract Expressionists (Frank Stella and Willem de Kooning among them) as strong influences on his work. Steven Fraser Jones can be contacted by e-mail at: sfjones@telus.net

framed



What America, 36x36



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Ninth Depth, 54x54



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Significant Things
By Helen McLean
Published by: Simon & Pierre Publishing
Release Date: 2003

Many years ago, on a very long bus trip home from summer theatre school, I discovered the substantial joys of Marilynne Robinson's novel *Housekeeping*. Nestled among the usual service station pulp, this paperback caught my eye because the (disappointing) film based on it had recently finished playing in theatres and the book cover was identical to the movie poster. It wasn't exactly a high-concept method for

selecting reading material, but in this instance it did the trick. As it turned out, my \$5.95 investment paid off—Robinson's writing kept me enthralled for the balance of what had always been a tedious trip through Alberta's rural heartland. Once home, I ran out to purchase a copy of the book for my mother, and *Housekeeping* remains one of our favourite short reads to this day.

I recently enjoyed a similar experience while reading Helen McLean's latest novel, *Significant Things*. Her book—unassuming in appearance compared to many others I receive on a regular basis—turned up among the flotsam and jetsam on my desk at the start of a particularly bitter cold snap. Initially passed over in favour of another offering, McLean's book drew me back through, of all things, reverse prejudice. I was curious to see how a straight woman would tackle a subject billed as a May-December romance between an accomplished art dealer in his late-forties and a young English-Italian painter.

While it's true that *Significant Things* does rely on this pairing to some extent, on the whole it is so much more than this—and, in some ways, so much less. In the realm of literary pigeonholes, it seems to defy description. Essentially an extended character sketch, the things upon which the novel focuses are significant indeed, universal elements of human nature that resonate regardless of the specifics of their circumstances.

The story follows, to some extent, the exploits of one Edward Cooper, a man whose passion for collecting precious *objets* all but obscures his ability to recognize the simpler beauty of human interaction in his life. Raised first by a doting mother and

then by the dismissive hand of a pig-headed stepfather, the young Mr. Cooper is a classic example of what is generally called "damaged goods". Over the course of his life he takes comfort in his ability to acquire exquisite things, not the least of which is the young artist, Paolo, whom he meets while vacationing in Italy. It comes as little surprise, then, that the painful lesson Edward learns from this encounter turns out to be the most valuable "thing" in his entire collection.

As a writer, McLean is absolutely unobtrusive, managing to move both players and reader back and forth through time with seeming effortlessness. Details of characters, settings and emotions are spare but potent, richly evocative despite the economy with which they're used. This skill is particularly evident in her descriptions of Edward's early life with his mother; Dolly—who is, incidentally, one of the most beautifully damaged characters I've encountered in all my years of reading. The details of Dolly and Edward's ragged existence are a marvel to absorb; dropped like vivid dye at the start of the third chapter, they spread gently through the pair's environment, staining everything in their world with the stigma of proud poverty. Even with only this book to go on, I'm comfortable saying that Helen McLean is a cinematographer's dream author; one who knows only too well that, in the mind's eye, show is always so much better than tell.

When it comes to guiding the action in her tale, McLean is the ultimate chameleon; so immersed is she in her protagonist that her voice becomes authoritatively his—or, for that matter, the voice of any other character with whom she chooses to engage the reader.

It must be said, though, that the most engaging and compelling voice in *Significant Things* is McLean's own. Her narrative passages are exercises in the art of literary precision, particularly when it comes to setting the stage. Take, for example, the following sentence, in which she introduces the piece of grit that builds over the course of the novel into a beautiful but sad pearl of wisdom about life, loneliness and the nature of love:

"In each instance, when his lovers turned out not, after all, to have been the one, and the relationship had begun sailing irreversibly onto the shoals, he would divert his attention to acquiring a wonderful painting or a rare piece of antique furniture or a priceless carpet, and become so absorbed with whatever it was that he would hardly even notice when the affair was actually over and he was on his own again."

Nowhere is this skill more evident than in her passages relating to Edward and Paolo's intimacy. Though few and far between, these accounts are immediate, authentic and refreshingly discreet—wonderful departures from what is generally considered "friction fiction". Speaking as someone who receives and reads much of the aforementioned material as a matter of course, McLean's efforts in this area are both welcome and appreciated.

Though *Significant Things*' pace and subject matter won't be to everyone's tastes, on merit of skill alone the novel is worth a look. In fact, I was so impressed with this book that I ordered a copy of the author's autobiographical *Details from a Larger Canvas* for my mother. I suspect it will occupy a spot on her bookshelves somewhere near Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*, alphabetic order be damned. ▼

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NATIONAL GLBT WRITING COMPETITION

* Stories submitted can be either narrative or written in the first person. Please bear in mind that this is a fiction competition, so work based in real-life must differ enough from actual, identifiable people and events in order to qualify. Obvious works of non-fiction will be automatically disqualified.

* Submissions must fall within the 1,500 maximum word count. All entries over the limit—even by a single word—will be automatically disqualified.

* All stories must be submitted in a PC-friendly manner, either in Word or Word.doc formats. Stories submitted in the body text of an e-mail, or in any format other than those previously specified, will be automatically disqualified.

* Electronic entries should be submitted to: rsvp@outlooks.ca and must be received by midnight on July 31st, 2004, without exception.

* Even though submissions are being accepted electronically, a hard copy of each story must also be submitted by post. Hard copy entries must be postmarked on or before July 31st, 2004, and should be sent to Outlooks' mailbox at:

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* Hard copy submissions will become the property of Outlooks and, without exception, will not be returned to entrants. First and second runners-up will have their stories published (without remuneration) in the October and November issues of Outlooks, respectively. The winning story will appear in the December 2004 edition.



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An April New Years?

Resolutions 2004: Join the gym. Quit smoking... scratch that! Smoke less, maybe one a day? (Two, if overly stressed.) Get a new job. Prior to that, check all old lottery tickets. Learn to knit. Who wrote *that*? Learn to box. Learn to speak French.

Spring has sprung—or has it? Those resolutions you ruminated on just a few months ago have probably flown the coop. Meticulously stuck to the fridge with a magnet from last year's Pride parade until "accidentally" tossed by your roommate who tired of staring at them. And what were you thinking when you wrote "Learn to knit?" Must have been the hangover smog of your New Year's morn brain.

Who'd have thought that it made sense to begin a New Year in the bleak cold of winter, anyhow? Hibernation is an inborn trait and January is all about hibernation. What fun is there in walking down Church Street buried beneath layers of wool? It's not pretty, no matter what designer rag you've wrapped decoratively around your neck. Even if you're given to snowy sports or lucky enough to land on some tropical island retreat for a few weeks, the resolutions slumber.

Think about a winter "to do" list. Unless referring to a specific someone, that list is limited to even more activity of the horizontal variety: a stack of new books, a pile of DVDs or an afternoon nap all come quickly to mind. January is a month for blankets, bed and some good R&R. It is *not* a month to begin the New Year!

But April surely is.

Its very name translates from the Latin verb "aperire", meaning to open, the month of "opening". In fact, until the Gregorian calendar came into play, most ancient cultures from the Romans through the Hindus actually celebrated New Year's Day on April first. Aside from the usual dancing, drinking and foolish debauchery, celebrations often involved a reversal of the "norm": men dressing in

womens' clothes, kings and their servants changing positions. Whether the queens took part as well is not a known fact.

Those ancient celebrations sound somewhat similar to our modern day revelry. The difference is that those lucky buggers, pre-Gregory, got to celebrate on the eve of a warm spring-ish day. New Year's seems vastly more appealing against a backdrop of the first pale tulips poking through the earth and the first pink flesh rent from under woolen scarves. Even Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, held the month sacred—and what better poster child for the gay community than she?

An April New Year's would suit the rainbow kingdom. With spring at the door, resolutions wouldn't gather dust or germinate quietly in murky winter brains, as their January counterparts are wont to do. If getting buff were on your list, you'd have no time to waste: it's already T-shirt weather. You'd be at the gym on the first April morn, even if you hadn't slept a wink from festivities the night before.

Like it or not, we all create resolutions at some point in the year. If we didn't, our lives would remain the same for time immemorial. Whether said aloud or mused silently within, those ruminations are what forge the path we walk through life. Changing the action of our lives takes work but—hey, spring has sprung and the grass is riz.

If that list of resolutions is still spinning about your murky head, have a look again! The calendar year sure as hell isn't going to change anytime soon. If you have to do it, why not make April your own private New Year's? Bottom line, if you don't change the action of your life in the present, you sure won't change it in the future. And that's the whole point of resolutions! So lose that gnarly winter scarf, bare your flesh, plunge right in and don't forget to leave some room for a bit of New Year's revelry.

PS: I've gone to the gym.

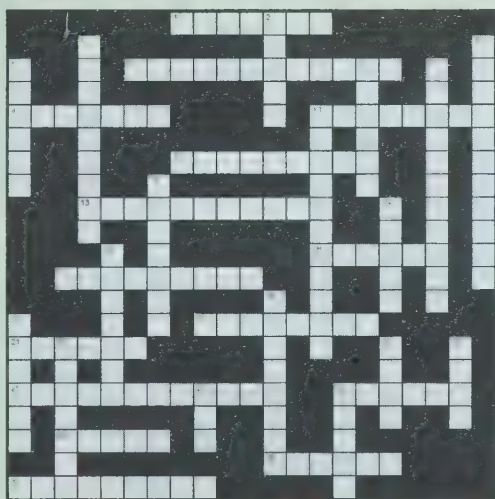
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QUEERWORD

clues & words by Outlooks staff
 answers on page 37

Across

- 1) Boy'sCo owner/fashion insider David
 - 6) Rosie O'Donnell recently wed in this U.S. city
 - 9) New venue for Calgary Pride festival: ____ Park
 - 10) This month's Don't You Wish or famous Ed
 - 11) Famous Mies van der Rohe chair or Spanish city
 - 13) This month's Collective Gaze deals with these
 - 16) Vancouver's "minority-based" rugby team
 - 17) Host(ess) of Vegas Cirque de Soleil show
 - 20) Naughty Cirque de Soleil show in Vegas
 - 21) Scandinavian watch company
 - 25) U.S. city of "brotherly love"
 - 27) Vancouver costumer: ____ Reeves
 - 28) New Winnipeg resident Kim or late Aussie hoover Peter
 - 29) Chelsea Boys: The World According to ____
 - 30) Winnipeggers wrestle in this in Out & About
- Down**
- 2) Out lesbian and Islamic reformist: Irshad
 - 3) Rendez-Vous Montréal Co-president Mark
 - 4) Helen McLean novel: ____ Things
 - 5) 1987 Ken Russell film



- 7) Ring around the restraint
- 8) Current mayor of San Francisco
- 10) The Liberals are in hot water over this issue
- 12) Amusement park setting for porno film
- 14) Zamfir and our cover character both have one of these
- 15) Ex-member of Go-Gos Carlisle or defeated Conservative Stronach
- 18) Big Fat Greek star who recently worked with Vancouver
- 19) New Conservative leader or Rhoda's Valerie
- 22) New host city for 2006 Gay Games
- 23) Venereal blemish in Freddy's column or distinctive hog feature
- 24) U.S. president or slang for pubic hair
- 26) Pagan character depicted on front cover
- 27) Democratic frontrunner in the United States

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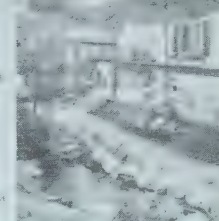
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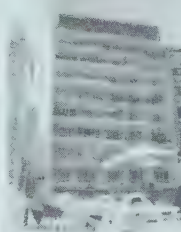
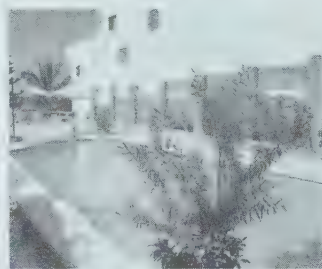
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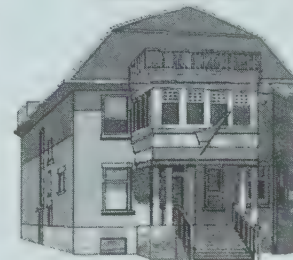

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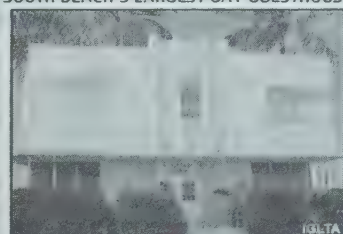
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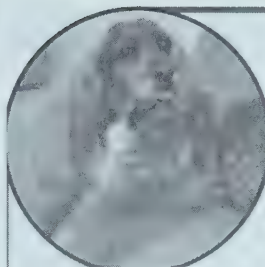
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Dear Freddy



Dear Freddy,

Not too long ago, I found a pair of women's panties in my boyfriend's gym bag. I know it might sound gross, but when I sniffed them I could tell they had been worn 'coz they were kind of sweaty. After I put them back, I freaked out for about two days worrying before I confronted my sweetie—and guess what? They were *his*! He told me he likes the way they feel and that I shouldn't worry because it doesn't mean he likes women. He told me he's still totally into me and I believe him. Now, wanna know the weird part? Ever since we talked about it, the thought of him wearing them and getting turned on turns me on! Is that weird or am I just overreacting to a "curve"? I told one friend and he said it was no big deal to him, but he hasn't called me for a long time since. What do you think?
Panty Pal

Dear Panty Pal,

What do I think? I think the friend that's been avoiding you is an asshole, I think your boyfriend's a sick little monkey and I think you are a big perv. Bless you all—except, of course, your judgmental friend. Do I think your boyfriend's little turn-on is weird? Yes, to a degree, but it's really no different than if he liked wearing one of those goofy silk thongs they sell in sex shops as "exotic male underwear". Do I think you finding this hot to be a tad strange? Yes—*absolutely*, but isn't that why you're gay? The nicest thing about being a so-called sexual deviant, P.P., is that you have a whole world of carnal delights opened up to you with the flick of a hormone. I'm not saying that straight people *don't* have their own kinks and quirks, but theirs almost always come with baggage—or at very least an unattractively practical handbag. Chill out, Panty Pal; it's no big deal. Besides, I'm far more worried that you, as a grown man, feel quite comfortable referring to your signif other as your "sweetie" (barf) in front of a total stranger—a filthy-minded mongrel like me, no less! Ah, whatever—go give your Victoria's Secret model one for me.

Lix,

Fred

P.S. I just noticed you used the term "curve"—just how tight are his panties, anyway?!

Dear Freddy,

I'm pretty sure that a friend of mine has a venereal wart on his upper lip. I've been telling him for weeks to have it looked at but he thinks it's "a food allergy" or "something to do with late puberty". Freddy, he's *twenty-three*! He tries to hide it with cover-up when he goes out but it's still totally there and visible and *disgusting*. I'm worried that he's going to spread it around to people—or even give one to me by eating with my utensils when he's over at my house. What should I do?

Worry-wart

[Okay, he signed his name, but I couldn't resist calling him that—Fred]

Dear Worry-wart,

Oook—it sounds like your little hog of a friend has been rooting out truffles under the wrong trees! Oook again. Unfortunately, there's not much you can do to force him into going to a clinic or seeing a doctor, but you could stop having him 'round to your house for a nosh, for starters. I've heard that putting duct tape on a wart can clear it up, but I don't know if that works on venereal versions. To be safe, he really should go see a doctor, although putting a piece of tape over his mouth might prevent him from chomping on any more infected—or unsuspecting—wieners in the meantime. Gawd, honey—ook *thrice*!

Kisses on your pink parts (but not his),

Freddy

Write to me, Dears!

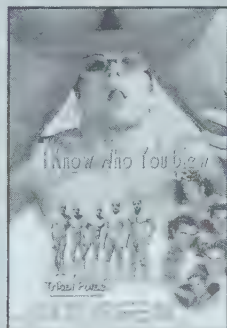
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I Know Who You Blew Last Summer

From: Tribal Pulse Productions



Featuring: Tommy Saxx, Blake Harper, Marco Antonio, Lucas James, Christopher Scott, Scott Davis, Alex Wilcox, Paul Morgan, Josh Holiday

Running Time: 85 minutes

Coaching a university swim team can be a difficult job and often involves more than just competitive action in the swimming pool. In a flashback to the previous summer, we find out that the coach had to help Tommy Saxx with his insecurities about his own physique as compared to the rest of the well-hung team. Fortunately, this coach knows how to help every team member achieve his personal best! We also discover that a spy on the team uses his Polaroid camera to catch some intimate moments of action—ones that don't take place in the water!

This summer, the university pool is undergoing repairs and the whole team has to practice at the coach's home, which boasts an Olympic-sized swimming pool. When the coach leaves town, he tells the team that they can use the pool and shower, but his home is off-limits. The lean, muscular crew of university students makes a handsome group, and all are dedicated to team spirit and the competitive nature of their school; they know that practice makes perfect and want to be sure they're the best. However, what they practice in the changing room has very little to do with the big competition ahead of them!

This may be the coach's last season and the assistant coach, Jakob, will do almost anything to get the top job. This includes making the other team members look bad in the coach's eyes—perhaps the phantom with the Polaroid could play a role in this subterfuge. The high level of testosterone in this group provides plenty of oppor-

tunities for candid camera shots showing the team "members" at their best and worst. The initiation of a new teammate includes shaving cream, a razor and hands-on team participation, and each athlete takes great pleasure in this hazing. The new recruit soon fits right into the team activities and proves he's one of the group in every activity they enjoy.

When the suspense is over, this movie provides an unusual underwater orgy scene as the closing credits roll. Is it true that everything appears larger underwater and that swimmers can hold their breath the longest? You'll just have to rent this movie to find out for sure!

Review Sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre
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RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Boyland

From: All Worlds Video



Featuring: Armando, Bobby Benson, Tommy DeLuca, Brent Everett, Owen Hawk, Jason Hawke, Aaron Heights, Jacy, Jeremy Jordan, Court Logan, Chase McKenzie, Tim Reynolds, Cody Scott, Steven Wayne, Sean Conner

Running Time: 90 minutes

Summer is a prime time for outdoor activities and a day at the fairground is essential at least once every year. For this exceptional group of young studs, a day at Boyland provides sufficient sexual escapades to last the whole summer—or at least until the fair leaves town. The midway rides and a carnival sideshow provide a playground of opportunities, surprises and delights... much more than just hotdogs and ice cream!

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The "Haunted Bedroom" provides Jeremy Jordan an interesting and spooky time when the body in the coffin springs to life before his wide eyes, revealing Jason Hawke. Jeremy's fear is quickly overcome by Jason's good looks and amazing prowess—this casket comes with a huge basket!

In Boyland, even the Fat Lady is full of surprises: instead of being an expert at

guessing your weight, it's the length of your tool that this lady knows by instinct. This size queen proves she's nearly always right; however, when she's wrong, her own surprise amazes the well-hung studs in front of her.

When it comes to "Hook-a-Husband", Brent Everett is a master at the game. He tosses his rings at Chase McKenzie's erect ten inches and his third try scores a direct hit. Claiming his prize, Brent proves he can handle the fairground's biggest and best trophy. Brent also proves he could have stumped the Fat Lady and won another big prize. These two newlyweds make this ring toss a delight to watch—certainly well worth the price of the rings!

With all these attractions, a unique petting zoo, some great photo opportunities and even more wild rides, a trip to Boyland would make any summer day a hot one—be sure to check it out. Admit one!

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RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★(★)

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

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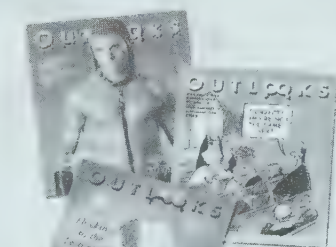
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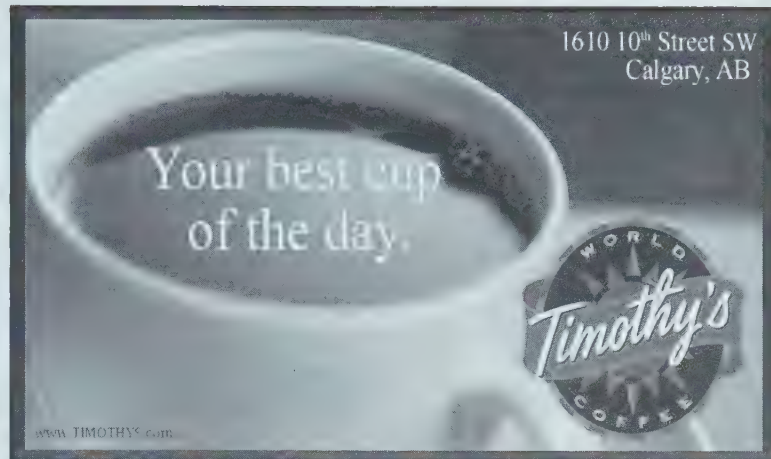
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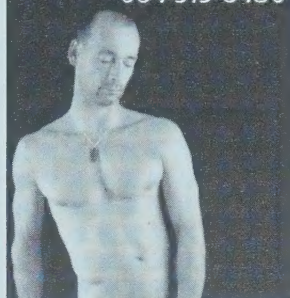
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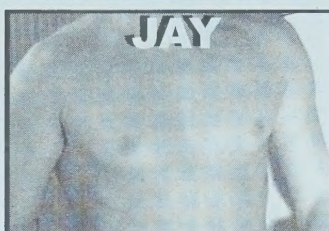
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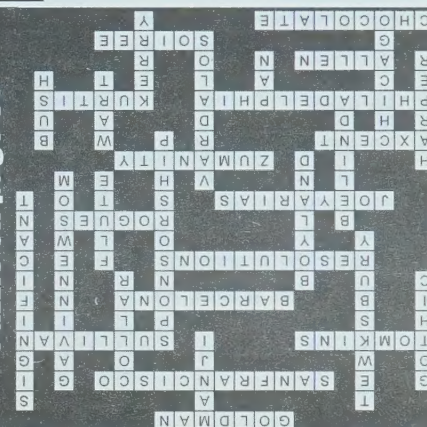
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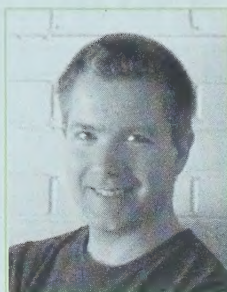
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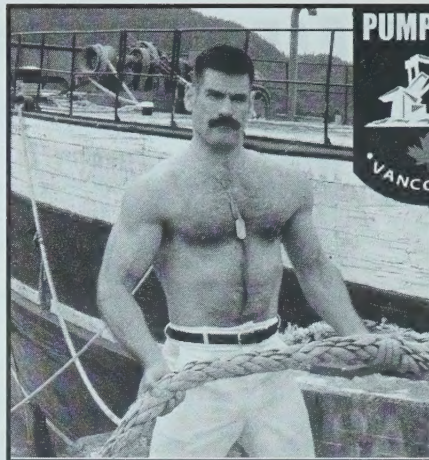
Question:

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Answer:

The connection between the publication and the foundation is in name alone. The OMCF was created in the year 2000 by *Outlooks* publisher Roy Heale, and the initial board of directors did include some *Outlooks* employees. However, the foundation is operated exclusive of the publication by a board of directors, both male and female, drawn from various social groups and organizations in the Calgary community. Whenever possible, *Outlooks* magazine endeavours to promote the work the foundation is doing to help build Canada's gay and lesbian community-at-large.

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